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THE NEWSPAPER FOR SITTINGBOURNE, ISLE OF SHEPPEY, FAVERSHAM & DISTRICT

Issue No 100

Available from Wednesday,
August 12, 2009

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a stylish number

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KARA PLANS CHANGE FOR THE BETTER

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

THE new chief executive of Swale council has said he is "hugely excited" to be working for the authority and ready to meet the challenges ahead.

Abdool Kara, who took up the position full time on June 29, said he wanted to help transform the area in the coming years – giving Swale residents something to be proud of.

Speaking to Yourswale in his Swale House office, Mr Kara said: "I'm hugely excited by this job – I wouldn't have taken it otherwise.

"When I was working for the London Borough of Merton as assis-

tant chief executive I was being approached to take on roles in leafy suburbs, but they didn't appeal to me.

"Swale stood out for me as there are many similarities with Merton.

"Performance-wise, Swale is roughly where Merton was back in 2005.

"There it took us four years to turn the 'weak' rating into a 'four-star, improving strongly'. I hope to help Swale council achieve the same thing.

"My job is to assist the members in making something of Swale and help realise its huge potential."

Mr Kara said the turn-around would take time.

"I'm unashamedly going to import the processes I had in place at Merton.

"There are several key business disciplines; making informed choices, setting priorities and working well with the finances we have," he said.

"It took us four years for Merton to be recognised as one of the best authorities in the country and it will take us the same time here."

When pressed on the specifics of what the council wanted to achieve, Mr Kara said: "I would say two things. The first thing we want is much better

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



NEW CHIEF EXEC HAS CORE RULES

Swale council chief executive Abdool Kara spoke to Yourswale about his new role and plans to help improve a wide range of core services across the area.

Mr Kara said the authority had moved on since the Mark Bilsborough saga – which saw in-fighting and court battles between council chiefs and their former chief executive.

Looking to the future, Mr Kara said Swale council planned to push forward with regeneration projects, raise attainment in education, improve traffic links and continue to attract highly-skilled businesses to the area.



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3 The 2009 Relay for Life on Sheppey raised just over £10,000 for cancer research UK. **Search 'relay'**

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Printed by Newsfax

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Young talents feature highly at film festival

■ BY NICK AMES

SWALE Film Festival has helped inspire young people to explore the possibilities of cinema, according to its organisers.

Around 400 youngsters got involved in the event which is recognised as one of the leading arts showcases in the county.

As well as screenings of new movies the young people were encouraged to make their own productions.

Winners of the event's awards included Kelvin Packham, from Faversham, whose work entitled Eidos was placed first in the 16 to 23-year-old category, alongside pupils from Eastchurch Primary School and a youth club in Warden Bay, Sheppey, which worked with Cheyne Middle School.

Legend

The award for best feature film made in Swale went to The Hide, which was screened on Film 4 in February and made good use of the region's windswept marsh landscape.

It was directed by Marek Losey, the grandson of Joseph Losey who directed such classics as The Go-Between, The Servant and Modesty Blaise.

Adapted from the stage play The Sociable Plover, by Tim Whitnall, the film follows an ornithologist and toy train enthusiast, Roy, whose day of birdwatching is interrupted by a visit from a suspicious-looking stranger, David, who enters the hide to shelter from the rain.

A taut thriller, it also got a good reception from movie critics on being screened.

Event organiser Ken Rowles said: "We are very pleased with how things went and really would like this to become an annual event.

"It is a chance for people to see

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Producer Ken Rowles reflects on this year's festival. **Search 'film'**

what young film-makers are doing and give them the opportunity to develop their talents. It also shows off the advantages of the cinema as a place to see films and share the experience with an audience, rather than just sit at home watching a DVD."

Screenings took place across the area and screen legend Susannah York came to the festival to see her latest movie for the first time.

The actress starred in The Calling, which was made with £75,000 of Kent County Council money and has proved such a hit that County Hall has agreed to pour more money into making more movies in the county.

It also featured Ramsgate's Brenda Blethyn, Amanda Donohoe and Rita Tushingham, in the story of a nun and her life.

York said: "I think (writer and director) Jan Dunn's enthusiasm drew me to this film. It's always very nice to be wanted. She outlined the story to me and when I read the script I thought it was very good with plenty of scope for characterisation so, in short, I liked it and wanted to become part of it."

yourswale NEWS IN BRIEF

Planners to decide if Tesco wish is granted

A PLAN to build flats alongside the proposed Tesco store expansion in Faversham will be discussed tomorrow.

Swale council's planning committee will be looking at the scheme, which calls for a development in the nearby former brewery buildings.

Tesco are putting forward the proposal which is aimed at rejuvenating the area in conjunction with the plans to expand the store.

The site lies in an important conservation area and all buildings on the site are Grade I or Grade II-listed.

The development is also in the Faversham Conservation Area.

Sergeant Cole takes his new historic post

A NEW town sergeant is now officially in post after a six-month trial period.

Robert Cole is now the holder of the historic position which reinforces Faversham's links with its past.

The historic post includes working at ceremonial and social functions involving civic dignitaries. Duties include major events such as those held by the Confederation of the Cinque Ports.

Other tasks are allotted to the holder of the role by the town clerk and these include looking after the Guildhall as well as being a chauffeur to the Mayor of Faversham for the duration of his period in office.

Victorian water pump restored after smash

A 112-YEAR-old water pump which was destroyed in a car accident has been restored to former glory.

The structure was originally built in the centre of Teynham to commemorate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897. But it was destroyed in November when two teenagers smashed into it in a stolen car.

Around 30 people saw the restored pump blessed by local vicar the Rev Steve Lillicrap.

The teenagers, who also damaged four cars and a house in London Road, were sentenced to a total of 45 months in a young offenders' institute.

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Station brought up to speed for new service

Overhaul ready for fast rail link

■ BY NICK AMES

FAVERSHAM station is to undergo a much-needed makeover in the run up to the start of the new high-speed Javelin trains service.

Among the projects planned are the removal of mechanical signals – which date back half a century – and the installation of a new computer system.

Further upgrades are expected to be carried out throughout the station.

Rail bosses have promised to keep disruption to a minimum although access to some areas on the platforms will be restricted and the subway under the tracks is to be closed down.

The new 140mph trains linking the town with London come into service in December and work will continue until they commence running.

Currently work is going on along the platforms which are also being repainted, as are the station buildings.

It is expected this work will last for the next two months.

In October, construction of longer platforms will commence and this will result in platforms



ALL CHANGE: Work to Faversham station will be completed in time for the new high-speed service due in December

one and two being extended by 20 metres at the London end.

One of the railway tracks will also be moved to accommodate the new service and there are also plans to install lifts in the subway to improve access for people with a disability.

A spokesman for Network Rail said: "There should be a minimum of disruption to passengers while the work goes ahead and they will certainly see the benefits when it is finished."

"We are thanking passengers in advance for their patience and can ensure them that improvements will make the experience of travelling from Faversham a better one."

Janet Harker, who uses the train to get to work, added: "There hasn't been much disruption so far, but I see the work being carried out every day. I hope it will make the station more user-friendly – it's about time it received some attention."

Permanent gypsy site is in the offing

A PROPOSAL has been put forward for a permanent residential gypsy pitch to be established in Badlesmere.

The Orchard Place site, along Ashford Road, is already used by two travellers' caravans on what is considered to be a temporary basis.

There are also facilities for horses in an adjacent field. But the latest application wants to make the site a permanent home.

However officers at Swale council have recommended the application be refused.

In a report due to be considered tomorrow by councillors they say the proposal is for a site situated in the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty would be an "alien and intrusive development".

The report says the scheme is detrimental to the character and the appearance of the area and contrary to the aims of the area's designation which are the conservation and enhancement of the area's natural beauty".

The council officers say eight letters have been received from nearby residents supporting the proposal saying the current residents are "no bother to anyone" and "good neighbours".

'We would like our services to be among best in the country'

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

core service delivery. Our waste collection is among the best in the country and we want to see this replicated across other services, such as housing benefit response.

"We would like our core services to be above the Kent average and then in the upper quartile in the country.

"The other thing is much more visible – the regeneration of Sittingbourne and Shepway.

Attractive

"On that front, there is no doubt the recession has floored the pace of change, but this is a 20-year project.

"Our job has been to get the masterplans and infrastructure in place so they are 'oven ready'.

"As soon as the recession lifts the developers will come in and the planning will all be in place so Swale will be an attractive place to start activity again."

Mr Kara is very keen to speak of the future and the authority's plans

to raise attainment in education, improve traffic links and continue to attract highly-skilled businesses to the area.

But he is also aware of the problems surrounding his predecessor, Mark Bilsborough, who left his position following an interminable period of 'garden leave'.

Mr Kara said: "I have gone out of my way not to fully understand the full details of what happened with Mark Bilsborough as I didn't want it to taint my judgement of the council.

"But, to be fair, it was a long time ago and things have moved on. People have moved on.

"The council has not stood still. The interim chief executive, directors and other staff have moved things forward and made improvements.

"The overwhelming feeling I get is that the staff want to do the best they can and really want to work for Swale council."

• Email yourswale@kosmedia.co.uk

Employee had a nice little earner

AN accounts manager helped herself to more than £300,000 from a building firm's funds – and nobody noticed.

Hayley Mwemi-Harris, 25, of Hyde Place, Aylesham, milked the money from construction company RJ Perry, of Faversham, for three years until she was caught late last year.

She pleaded guilty to three counts of obtaining money by deception and one of fraud at Maidstone Crown Court on Wednesday last week.

Custodial

Mwemi-Harris asked for 34 other offences to be taken into consideration.

Judge Douglas Moore remanded her in custody for a month for probation and psychiatric reports to be prepared.

He said: "The amount of money taken makes this a very serious offence.

You should be under no illusion, you will receive a custodial sentence.

Don't get up any hopes, you know what the outcome will be."

Musicians wanted for restored piano

A PIANO which dates from the 1920s and is in the Fleur de Lis Heritage Centre has been restored to a condition which means it can now be played.

It will now be used at a number of events being organised by the Faversham Society.

Springs and dampers were replaced by musical instrument experts, the keys were made to work properly and castors added so that it can be moved.

The society is now interested in hearing from any musician who would like to try their hand at playing the newly restored instrument.

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Hundreds of viewers are caught with no TV licence

MORE than 700 Medway potato couches were caught watching TV without a licence during the first six months of this year.

TV Licensing statistics reveal 258 Chatham residents were fined, along with 235 in Gillingham and 207 in Rochester.

Spokesman Joanna Pearce said: "These figures show our continued effectiveness in catching people who watch TV illegally."

More than 214,000 people were caught across the UK, up 5,000 on the 2008.

Inquest is adjourned into crash that killed driver

A MOTORIST who died after crashing his car near Faversham last week has been named as Mark Phillips.

The 37-year-old, from Sittingbourne, came off the road at White Hill, Selling, at 3am on August 2. It is thought Mr Phillips lost control of his vehicle at a bend in the road.

An inquest into Mr Phillips' death was opened and adjourned at Ashford Magistrates Court. Anyone with information is asked to contact 01622 798538.

Here's looking at Central Theatre's Screen Classics

THE Screen Classics club kicks-off its latest programme of timeless films with Casablanca.

The film, starring Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman, will be shown at The Central Theatre on September 8, at 7.30pm.

A spokesman said: "Since the theatre began Screen Classics many have discovered the films that shaped today's cinema." Tickets are priced at £5 and £3.50 for students. Call the box office on 01634 338338.

Youngsters in shipshape condition at training days

SEA cadets from across Kent came together for a two-day training session on board HMS Cavalier, based at Chatham Historic Dockyard.

Youngsters from the Medway, Sheppen, Tunbridge Well and Gravesend units spent time on the World War Two destroyer and also learned about the customs and traditions of the Royal Navy.

The 10 to 12-year-olds were also visited by neighbourhood officer from Medway police.

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Miliband feels heat from MP on Kingsnorth

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

VETERAN MP Bob Marshall-Andrews will take anti-coal campaigners' concerns to the very top when he hands a petition to Climate Minister Ed Miliband.

The Labour MP, who represents Rochester and Strood, was due to present the petition to Mr Miliband this morning, however the handover has now been postponed.

At the time of going to press a new date was yet to be fixed.

The petition has been signed by more than 1,600 residents, all of whom oppose E.ON's plans to build two new coal-fired units at the Kingsnorth power plant.

Mr Marshall-Andrews QC said he was against the proposals.

"Not only would dirty new Kingsnorth coal make it virtually impossible for the UK to reach its carbon emissions reductions targets, it would leave us in a very weak position when it comes to influencing the hugely important climate change talks at Copenhagen in December," he said.

"I am pleased that so many local residents feel so strongly about this issue which, although of global importance, involves a decision that is taking place on our very doorstep. It is right that so many people are speaking out about this crucial issue."

"The UK needs to be investing for the long run, and that means creating low carbon sustainable jobs and not pushing ahead with dirty and polluting unabated coal power."

The petition was started by the Kingsnorth Climate Action Medway pressure group.

Pressure

KCAM member Justin Geiss said: "I'm really appalled by the idea that we might end up with a huge new polluting Kingsnorth coal power station."

E.ON's claims that a new power station will be cleaner are misleading, as they encourage people to underestimate the scale of the issue. A new plant would emit enormous amounts of climate changing carbon emissions – more



VOICING HIS CONCERN: MP Bob Marshall-Andrews

than six million tonnes per year.

"That's the same as the whole country of Tanzania emits in a year."

E.ON talk about carbon capture and storage technology (CCS) as if it held the answer to the problem of carbon emissions, but this technology has not proven itself to be viable on a large scale.

"Promises of CCS technology being available in the future should not be used as an excuse for building a new polluting coal plant now."

"What we need is investment in truly clean forms of energy such as wind, wave and solar."

The petition hand over comes as part of the national 'Big If' campaign.

Throughout the next three months pressure groups across the country are set to contact Mr Miliband to inform him of the action they will take if he gives E.ON's Kingsnorth plans the go ahead.

For more visit www.thebigif.org



Teens asked to get on board

THE SOS Bus has been motoring into the more rural parts of Medway to offer teenagers a wide range of health advice.

Workers from NHS Medway, Medway Council's public health team and the Stop Smoking Service have already visited Hoo, Grain, Allhallows and Cliffe Woods since the bus hit the road last month.

Medway's teenage pregnancy strategic coordinator Jinny Robinson said: "The aim of this scheme is to provide services to young people who cannot get to other parts of Medway as well as signposting them to local services that can provide information, advice and support."

Medway's area youth manager for Strood and Hoo Roy Smith added: "The feedback from the young people and the adults has been really positive."

"If this pilot is a success we will work in partnership to look at the best ways of continuing to provide this service."

The SOS bus is operated by charity organisation Medway CVS supported by Medway Community Safety Partnership whose members include NHS Medway, Medway Council, Kent Police in Medway and Kent Fire and Rescue Service and Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT).



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WORRY: Marion and John Lambert have urged their son Richard (right) to contact them after driving off in June



Parents' appeal for missing son to get in touch

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

THE concerned parents of a man who has been missing for nearly two months have made an emotional plea for him to make contact.

John and Marion Lambert urged 20-year-old Richard McGregor Lambert – their eldest son – to pick up the phone and let them know he is safe and well.

The moving appeal was made at a press conference at Medway police station last Wednesday – seven weeks after Richard was last seen.

When asked if he had a message for his son, who has turned 20 since he disappeared, dad John said: "Just let us know you're okay."

"You don't have to do anything else. If you want to come home there's still a roof over your head for you. If you have chosen another lifestyle that's fine by us, but just let us know. 'The not knowing is the worst bit. I'd just like to know he's okay.'

Switched off

Richard was last seen in the early hours of Saturday, June 13, in Maidstone.

He had been enjoying a night out with his girlfriend and friends and had planned to spend the night at a friend's house nearby.

After having a disagreement with his girlfriend Richard drove his car – a distinctive Ford Fiesta ST 500 – to services near the M1.

He then drove back to his home in Fowey Close, Chatham, at around 5.45am, but left soon afterwards. The car has not been found.

Richard used his mobile phone at 6.10am, but it has been switched off since.

He has not used a debit card and his passport is still at home.

Detective Inspector Ann Lissaman said: "Nothing that we have established suggests Richard has taken his own life or otherwise so we are treating him as missing."

"We need him to get in contact. His parents are traumatised. He can contact the missing person helpline, his parents or even myself. We just need to know he is safe and well."

Richard is described as white, 5ft 9in, has a stocky build, with short light brown hair and blue eyes. He was last seen wearing a



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See John and Marion Lambert's appeal to missing son Richard

'McKenzie' T-shirt. His car's registration is EY09 YST.

Anyone with information on Richards's whereabouts or anyone who has seen him or his car is asked to call Kent Police on 01634 792517 or email on amet.medway@kent.pnn.police.uk.

yoursawale NEWS IN BRIEF

Bridge fall woman saved

A WOMAN is lucky to be alive after plummeting off the M2 motorway bridge into the mudflats below.

The 26-year-old, from Northfleet, fell from the bridge on the evening of August 3. The impact left her buried up to her neck in the mud. She would have drowned had it not been for the brave actions of police officer Andre Smuts and part-time off duty coastguards.

The men scrambled across the mud and managed to keep the woman's head above water until the coastguard were able to arrive and pull her to safety.

Acting Superintendent Mick Judge paid tribute to the men, saying: "The actions of these individuals was very courageous. We are sure that without their quick thinking and brave conduct this woman would have died.

The woman has not been named.

Kent police are not treating the incident as suspicious.

Roadworks to cause delay

MOTORISTS are being warned to expect delays along a busy Rochester road while repairs are carried out.

A stretch of The Esplanade has been reduced to one lane to allow contractors to reinforce a weakening river wall.

A Medway Council spokesman said the new wall will be built in front of the existing one, allowing the path to be widened to create better access for walkers.

Front line services boss Phil Filmer said: "These works will address the problem well before it becomes a serious hazard."

Centre offers fun month

YOUNGSTERS can have their faces painted for free during a month of fun-time Fridays at Rainham Shopping Centre.

The fun-packed sessions run from 10.30am to 2pm every Friday this month. Activities also include displays from the Dancing Feet troupe and a visit from the mobile children's library tomorrow and August 14.

Recycling, trading standards and neighbourhood watch officials will be on hand to give advice out to shoppers on August 21.

On the last Friday of the month teenagers are invited to take part in a Guitar Hero tournament organised by Medway Council.

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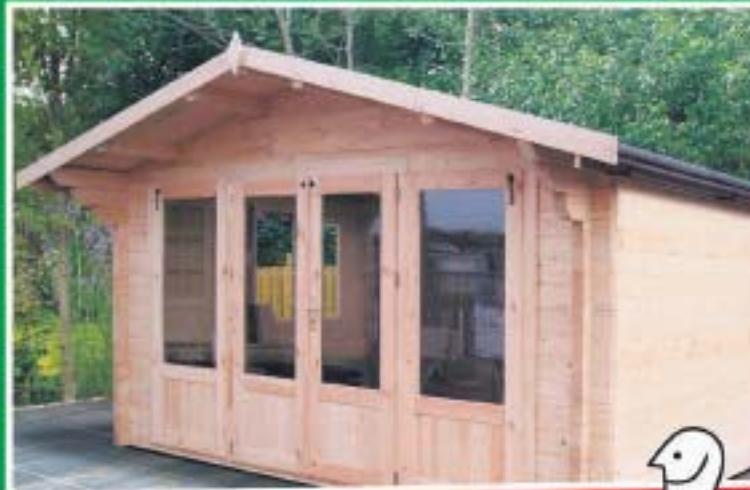
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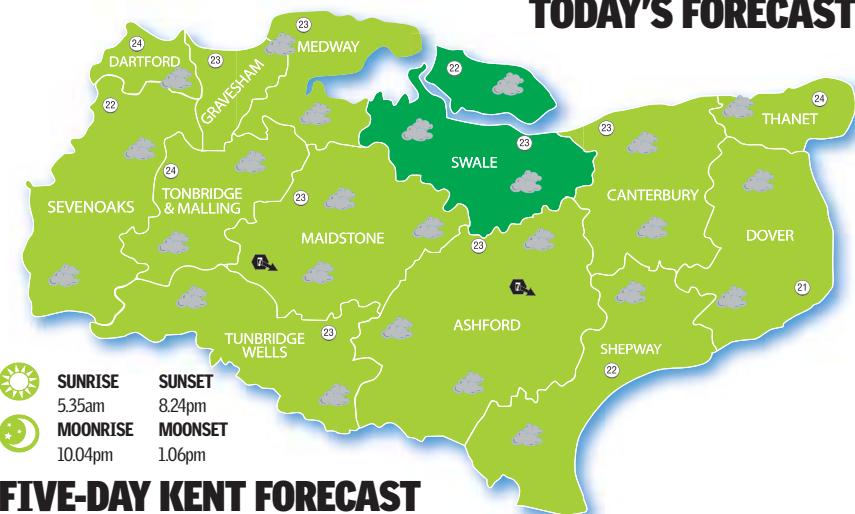
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	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon		Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Ashford	22°C	22°C	21°C	21°C	21°C	Gravesend	24°C	23°C	22°C	22°C	22°C
Canterbury	23°C	23°C	21°C	22°C	22°C	Maidstone	23°C	23°C	21°C	21°C	22°C
Chatham	23°C	22°C	21°C	21°C	21°C	Ramsgate	23°C	23°C	21°C	22°C	22°C
Dartford	24°C	23°C	22°C	22°C	22°C	Rochester	23°C	22°C	21°C	21°C	21°C
Dover	20°C	21°C	19°C	20°C	21°C	Sevenoaks	22°C	21°C	20°C	20°C	20°C
Faversham	23°C	22°C	21°C	21°C	21°C	Sittingbourne	23°C	22°C	21°C	21°C	21°C
Folkestone	20°C	21°C	19°C	20°C	21°C	Tonbridge	23°C	22°C	21°C	21°C	21°C
Gillingham	23°C	22°C	21°C	21°C	21°C	Tun Wells	23°C	22°C	21°C	21°C	21°C



WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

Chatham	Saturday	7:36am	5.0m
	Sunday	8:54am	4.9m
Dover	Saturday	6:28pm	5.6m
	Sunday	7:21am	5.4m
Dungeness	Saturday	6:24pm	6.3m
	Sunday	7:19am	6.0m
Ramsgate	Saturday	6:21am	4.2m
	Sunday	7:51am	4.1m
Sheerness	Saturday	7:24am	4.9m
	Sunday	8:42am	4.8m
Whitstable	Saturday	7:26am	4.5m
	Sunday	8:54am	4.5m



GREAT DEAL: Tim Oxley will microchip your dog for £5

Dog owners take up offer of cheap microchipping

MORE than 100 dogs have been microchipped by animal officers working for Swale council at a session held in the borough.

Council worker Tim Oxley has been championing the microchipping of dogs as part of responsible dog ownership, ensuring that dogs can be clearly identified if ever lost or even stolen.

Micro-chipping a dog at the vets can cost around £30, but Mr Oxley is able to do it for £5 per dog, with no limits to the number of dogs belonging to any one owner.

He said: "Microchipping dogs really is a no-brainer. It allows us to quickly return a stray dog to its owner. Ensuring your dog is healthy is now a requirement under the Animal Welfare Act 2006, so we are allowing all dog owners in Swale the chance to get a free health check and free animal welfare advice."



AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	23°C	Madrid	30°C
Athens	30°C	New York	26°C
Barcelona	28°C	Paris	28°C
Beijing	30°C	Rome	29°C
Bombay	28°C	Sydney	16°C
Cape Town	18°C	Tenerife	26°C
Cardiff	17°C	Tokyo	26°C
Gibraltar	27°C	Vancouver	18°C
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QUESTION & ANSWER

ROYSTON ROBERTSON



Q & A

Royston Robertson, a professional cartoonist living in Broadstairs, talks to **Tom Betts** about his love of chocolate and ice-cream, his dislike of public transport and his experience of anaerobic digestion...

Q How did you get into drawing cartoons?

A Like most cartoonists, it's something I've done since I was a child. Cartooning has always been there. About 12 years ago I started sending gag cartoons to magazines on an on-spec basis and managed to get published fairly regularly. Then I set up a portfolio website and an online blog and began getting commissioned work. Five years ago I gave up the day job and became a full-time freelancer.

Q Where do you get your inspiration?

A This is almost the dreaded 'Where do you get your ideas from?' question. To which I usually reply 'Belgium'. But I'll try to give a sensible answer. The inspiration is all around us. It's in things people say and do, items on the TV or papers, new buzz-words and so on.

Q Where are your cartoons featured?

A They can be seen in magazines here and abroad in publications such as Private Eye, Reader's Digest and The Spectator. I've worked for BBC Magazines, Oxford University Press, Channel 4 News and the Green Party, among others. The most unusual commission I've ever had was the request to come up with six cartoons on the subject of 'anaerobic digestion'. That's the process of turning waste into biofuels. A tricky one, but I managed it.

Q Tell us a little bit about your background

A I'm from Catterick in North Yorkshire. I'm 41 and now live in Broadstairs with my wife and two young children. We moved to the area from London five years ago. I was a journalist there for 10 years. It was a great job, but I was selling cartoons in my spare time and knew I really wanted to do that as a career. Not the most sensible of moves financially because freelancing is always precarious, but cartooning scores high in job satisfaction.

Q What keeps you in Thanet, when London must be a more convenient location?

A Not really, you can work anywhere as a cartoonist because commissions come via the internet and cartoons can be delivered by email. A lot of cartoon-related events take place in London, though, so I'd be lying if I said living in Broadstairs is never an inconvenience, especially when you get the midnight train home and hear those three words that send terror through your soul: 'replacement bus service'. But being at the beach-hut with an ice-cream from Morelli's makes up for it.

Q Who are your heroes?

A I'm not sure I have heroes as such. There's always a risk that they'll let you down. I am, however, a fan of the mini chocolate bars of the same name.

Q Where do you see yourself in five years?

A Hopefully selling more cartoons and not worrying about working in a recession. A regular slot in a high-profile newspaper is the dream. I'll also be on the telly later this year as part of a team from the Professional Cartoonists' Organisation who will be challenging the quiz experts on BBC2's Eggheads.

• To see Royston's work, you can visit roystonrobertson.co.uk or read his blog at roystonrobertson.blogspot.com



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Producer Ken Rowles reflects on this year's Swale Film Festival. Search 'film'



Jump for joy with McFly at their Rochester Castle gig. Search 'McFly'



Something strange is going on at Folkestone harbour. Search 'Record'



Ex-Clash drummer Nick Headon backs Porchlight charity. Search 'Headon'



Revisit the Kent County show with Julie Maddocks. Search 'Show'

EDITOR'S CHOICE

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She's got the galaxy at her feet

Kent pageant winner Catriona explains why brains come before beauty



POSITIVE:
Catriona wants to encourage others to follow their dreams

MISS Kent Galaxy winner Catriona Robson has made it her mission to dispel the negative stereotypes associated with beauty pageants.

The 21-year-old from Ashford is currently studying for a bachelor's degree in international relations through the Open University, and told Kent on Sunday that she thought such competitions help empower women.

She said: "Having met a lot of beauty contestants I think people would be surprised to find that most of them either have degrees or are halfway through their university courses, and are often incredible businesswomen with amazing leadership skills."

"The women in these competitions want to show themselves as leaders and have to show a great deal of determination and self-discipline to get into the finals. Quite often they represent incredibly worthwhile causes and charities, and devote their lives to helping others."

■ BY STEVE KNIGHT

"I did not have any misgivings on entering this pageant and judge it as an incredible once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that I should make the most of, and I encourage others to do the same."

Florida

Crowned Miss Kent Galaxy at a ceremony late last month, former Highworth Grammar School pupil Catriona will now compete for the title of Miss UK Galaxy next March.

Should she be victorious again, she will go on to the Miss Galaxy International event to be staged in Miami, Florida.

As well as challenging the myth that beauty comes before brains at such competitions, Catriona said she also wanted to prove that participants did not need to be a certain body-shape to stand a chance of winning.

She said: "I am not the generic size-zero model and I am determined to represent the

curvaceous and intelligent women of this country and prove that beauty should be judged not only on your looks but by your personality, your intelligence and your actions in life."

"For as long as I can remember I have had so much drive and so many ambitions that it is sometimes hard to imagine being able to fulfil them all in a lifetime. However, I have an incredibly positive attitude and approach each day as a gift."

"This attitude allows me to make the most of all the opportunities out there and to live my life to the full along with helping others to do so also."

"I really feel I can make a difference with my title as Miss Kent Galaxy and encourage other aspiring individuals to be confident and follow their dreams."

Part of Catriona's role as Miss Kent Galaxy is to make appearances at all types of events throughout the county.

Email misskentgalaxy2010@yahoo.co.uk to book her.

Click on to celebrity chef recipes with a local flavour

CELEBRITY chef Richard Phillips has launched a new internet television show to demonstrate how Kent's finest produce can be best utilised.

The six-part Made in Great Britain series offers hints and tips to aspiring cooks and is available to download for free at www.pod3.tv.

Phillips, who stars in the current ITV1 series Daily Cooks Challenge, told Kent on Sunday that internet television was the way forward.

He said: "It's TV at any time that you can watch wherever and whenever

you want to, and that lends itself very well to cookery shows.

"People can pause and rewind as they follow along to the recipes on their laptops.

"I still have one more episode to film but I'm very pleased with how the series has turned out so far."

Among the locations filmed for Made in Great Britain were a potato farm in Tenterden, near Ashford, and a flour mill in Canterbury.

Phillips, a keen supporter of KOS Media's Food for Kent campaign, also

spent time picking Kentish apples and mushrooms while also travelling further afield to Rye, East Sussex, where boats sailed in with fresh supplies of scallops.

He said: "I think it's important to support the local economy and local farmers because we all need to stick together, especially during these tough times."

"Using local produce seems to be something that's in fashion, but I've been doing it at my restaurants for the last nine years so it's nothing new to me.

"Having said that, I won't go local just for the sake of it. The produce still needs to be of a high quality because if it isn't then I have no problem looking elsewhere."

Phillips currently owns three restaurants in Kent – Thackeray's in Tunbridge Wells, Hengist in Aylesford and Richard Phillips at Chapel Down, Tenterden.

• Visit www.foodforkent.co.uk to read about more about local produce in our Food for Kent campaign.



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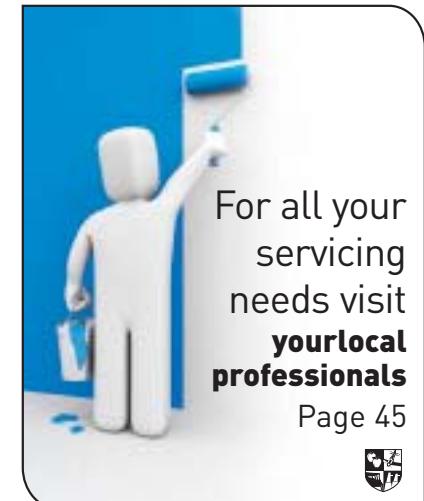
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'We'll keep wonder carp safe from nuts'

■ BY CHRIS MURPHY

AS Britain's fishermen mourn the death of Benson the common carp, the country's biggest carp of all is thriving in a Kent lake.

Weighing in at a hefty 67lb 14oz, Two Tone, as the mirror carp is known, continues to grow at Conningbrook Lake in Willesborough.

The world of angling has gone into shock after it emerged that Benson – who at 64lb 2oz was the country's largest common carp – was possibly killed by the use of nuts as bait, which is as good as a lethal poison to carp.

There is no such danger that Two Tone will meet a similar fate, said Chris Logsdon, the fisheries manager for Mid Kent Fisheries.

He said: "Just 75 people a year are allowed to fish the Ashford lake Two Tone is in, and they have been monitored for about a year to ensure they are proper anglers before we allow them on there."

He said only those who are fanatical about the sport were allowed near the lake, and several of them had still not managed to hook Two Tone, despite years of trying.

Chris, who runs 29 lakes in the South



CATCH OF THE DAY: Two Tone the fish is well protected after the shock death of Benson, another large carp

East, said: "Some of them are spending thousands of pounds on their equipment in the hope of getting the big one."

"But there's about 30 acres of water and just 30 fish in there, so catching Two Tone is tough."

"He has been hooked a few times, but he is good at not being caught, which just ramps up the challenge."

"There is a lot of competition among them to catch the biggest and best fish, and so some of the fish become well known."

"One guy has been trying to catch Two Tone for 15 years."

Benson died in what is called a day-ticket fishery, which means that anyone is allowed to take a chance at catching him.

Chris said: "We don't run things like that here. There are very strict controls and we don't let just anyone fish here."

"They need to be proper anglers who know what they are doing."

"It preserves the environment and it keeps the fish in good condition. That is just the way I run things. The fish need to be protected."

"I am a chartered environmentalist and have been doing this for 30 years, and that's why we have a good name around the country."

"The cost of a 30lb carp is around £3,500, so this is big business."

"If you don't have a fish of 30lb, no one is interested in fishing that lake. They only put on about two pounds a year. To have Two Tone, who is about 30 years old, is a bit of a freak of nature."

Stay healthy and safe this summer

HEALTH bosses have launched a campaign to help people have fun and stay healthy during this summer.

NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent said that after last summer more than 2,500 sexually transmitted infections (STIs) were diagnosed in the area.

In a bid to ensure travellers don't bring back an unwanted souvenir from their summer holidays, top tips include buying a pack of condoms in addition to your normal contraception and keeping them away from oil-based products such as sun lotion, baby oil and lipstick.

As well as advice about protecting yourself from STIs, the campaign also focuses on staying safe in the sun.

The PCT said skin cancer was one of the most common cancers in the UK and some 1,700 people were being treated for malignant melanoma and other skin cancers in east Kent.

Advice is to use sunblocks or sunscreens of at least factor 15, ensure children are protected with factor 30 and babies with 50-plus.

By using the NHS Choices website when dealing with health issues such as sunburn and wasp stings (www.nhs.co.uk), or by calling NHS Direct on 0845 46 47 you can receive the health advice you need 24 hours a day, Ms Andrews said.

The full 50 summer health tips can be found at www.easternandcoastalkent.nhs.uk. For further advice, you can go to www.nhs.uk or call NHS direct on 0845 4647.

NHS

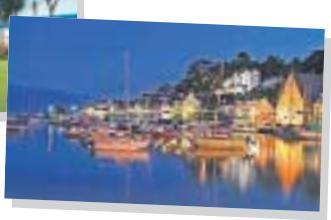
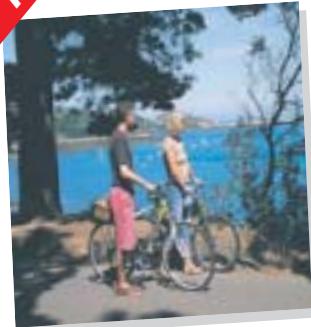
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yourswaleblogger



Each week we get a mystery writer to air their views on living in Swale...

High time football overload was finally kicked into touch

THE Gills have already had their first game of the season and so have Chelsea and Manchester United.

Now the whole Premier League bandwagon is set to steamroller over everything for what seems like an eternity.

And following that is a World Cup next summer which will ensure that no other sport gets a mention in the newspapers or on television.

We haven't even finished the Ashes yet and already the new season is upon us.

The Met Office is forecasting a good end to the summer, so the long-awaited barbecue season might finally be arriving.

But because of the football nothing else will matter for the next ten months or so.

Am I the only one to get fed up that it dominates everything so much?

It's just that we really do see too much of it and a lot of it is not very good, no matter what the presenters who hype it up on the box may say.

Sky is the worst, with must-see games often including the likes of Fulham versus Wigan and Bolton against Blackburn.

Setanta showed there was too much football on show. It went to the wall by offering mediocre games of interest only to the supporters of the clubs concerned.

When a game has got as big as football has, it is impossible to enjoy it fully... unless you are someone who believes that football is the only thing in life that matters and can't bear to wait out the summer.

It seems the game becomes more and more powerful every year and that is something that not even the most rabid fan wants.

To turn the clock back to happier days, it used to be such a joy when the season came around.

The FA Cup Final at Wembley would be quite a distant memory and even though transfers were nothing like as involved and high-profile as they are now, there would always be a new face or two to make things interesting.

A short pre-season and a few low-key games against lower-division opponents – no World Football Series, Peace Cup or Asia Premiership Challenge – then it was off.

And it was exciting because it had a bit of a novelty factor.

The games were starting in the autumn, we knew winter would sort out a few key issues and then would come the run-in through spring as the FA Cup gained momentum. It all had a pleasing pattern and symmetry to it.

You enjoyed it because it had to be sought out – live games were few and far between on TV, so if you wanted the atmosphere then you had to go.

Matches started at the end of August and finished in May – that was enough for everyone.

Now it is too much for anyone.

EDITOR'S NOTE: All blogs are supplied with full name and address of the authors. They do not reflect the view of the newspaper but are designed to give our readers the chance to air their views.

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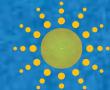
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SIT back and relive Roger Federer's claim to victory over Andy Roddick in an epic and historic encounter as he officially became tennis's greatest men's champion in The 2009 Men's Singles Final.

Watched by a television audience of 11 million, the battle for tennis's most coveted prize saw Roddick, a previous two-time runner-up to Federer at the Championships, put in a courageous effort, ultimately falling short to the Swiss master 5-7 7-6 (8-6) 7-6 (7-5) 3-6 16-14.

Although slightly shorter than

last year's mammoth battle between Federer and Rafael Nadal, this year's match took on similarly epic proportions.

For much of the game, it seemed that Roddick would emulate Nadal's feat as he hammered away at his opponent. Federer wavered a few times, but never toppled and in the end won on merit.

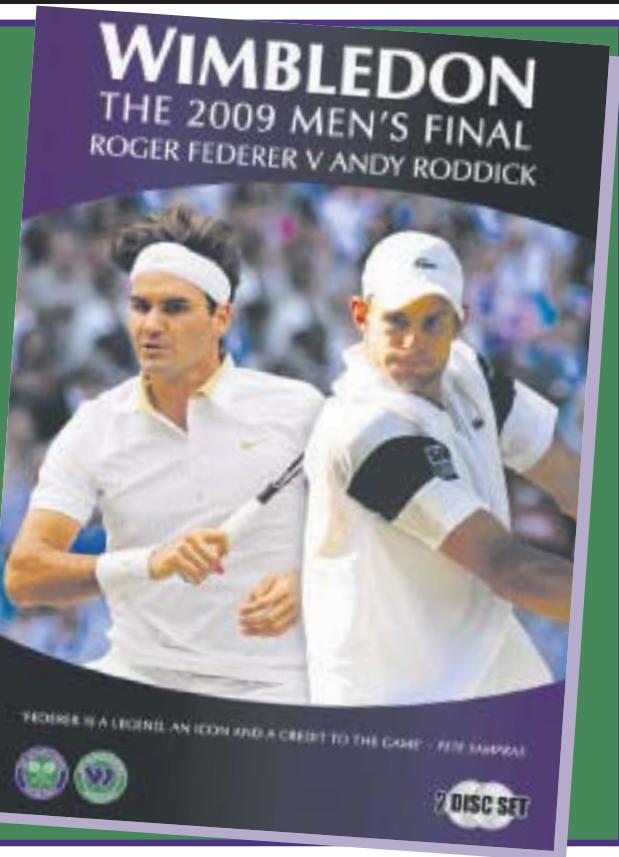
As the match went on, the records began to tumble; the most games ever played in a men's singles Wimbledon final, beating last year's 62 and the most games in a set of a men's final at the All England club.

Also, Federer's ace count passed the 50 mark and then, finally, it was Roddick who cracked in the 30th game of the set.

To see all of this and more we have 15 DVD's of Wimbledons singles final to giveaway simply answer the question below and send your entry on a postcard along with your email address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to Wimbledon 2009 DVD Competition, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR. The closing date is Friday, August 28, 2009. **Question: Who Won the Wimbledon Mens Singles final in 2009?**

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yourletters

TALK TIME

MARK JAMES

Swale council's publicity officer, who is responsible for getting across what the local authority is up to, talks about the council's new magazine.

You have a new publication coming out this month, haven't you?

Yes, it's called Inside Swale and it covers things that are going on across the borough, whether they be taking place in Sittingbourne, Sheppey or Faversham.

What sort of information is in it?

Well, in this first edition council leader Andrew Bowles has written an introduction which includes the latest on the regeneration plans for Sittingbourne. Then there is a piece on the newly-elected Mayor of Swale, Adrian Crowther, who is a borough councillor for Minster Cliffs as well as a Kent County councillor for Sheppey.

How is the publication laid out?

There is an individual page for each area - Sittingbourne, Faversham and Sheppey.

There is also a page on the regeneration of the borough and the community partnership as well as up-and-coming festivals and events. To help people who want to contact their councillor there is also a complete list of our members, with phone numbers and email addresses.

There are also a couple of pages of health news and advice on where people can recycle waste.

How is the publication laid out?

It is available from our main office in Sittingbourne and are other premises in Faversham and on the Isle of Sheppey.



YOUR LETTERS



Give these graffiti artists a chance

In response to the article in Yourscale regarding the panels on the Long Bridge, Faversham, I agree wholeheartedly that this graffiti is an eyesore and fully appreciate local residents desire to be rid of this.

However, some of the young people who have been involved in creating this mess are in fact talented young people with no outlet for their skills or energy.

We have no skate park or central meeting area for young people in Faversham, and much of these problems are created out of boredom. Have the local councillors and Network Rail actually considered having an open day and asking these youngsters to officially create more pleasing artwork on these panels.

This kind of scheme has worked



LETTERS: Please send your letters in to us at Yourscale, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR



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We will include the best on these pages too - ensuring your comments reach the widest possible audience. In addition, if you find your newsagent, supermarket or petrol station runs out of Yourscale before you've picked up your copy, you never need to miss out.

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in other parts of the country and it would be nice, for once, for Faversham to consider these young people and actually offer them chance to be part of the community.

Shirley Smitherman, from Faversham, by email

Plastic pint glasses leave a bitter taste

News that more plastic cups are to be issued by pubs worried

about the rise in attacks using glass objects is yet another blow for the vast majority of people.

Most pub-goers don't go around using receptacles as offensive weapons.

So why should they have to make do with rubbish plastic cups which make everything taste worse and split at the slightest amount of pressure.

Ban violent drinkers - not decent pint glasses.

Terry Hawkins, from Sheldwich, by email

Support those in fight against cancer

The story you ran last week about Michelle Barrett and her battle with cancer has moved me to write to you to remind people that the charities which support the fight against this disease are some of the most worthwhile in the country.

I know there is a recession going on and times have become increasingly hard for everyone, but it is still up to people to do their bit to support those who raise funds for medical research.

They are feeling the pinch too as many businesses who support worthwhile causes link their giving to profits.

When these are down so are donations.

So stories such as the one you carried last week are a good reminder of how much support is needed from people for good causes.

Ian Braithwaite, by email

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Help us defeat this horrible bloodsport

It's decision time for hare-coursing in Ireland. This is the month when, traditionally, the Minister for the Environment decides whether or not to allow another season of this legalised cruelty.

His decision will relate specifically to the granting of a licence to the country's coursing clubs allowing them to capture hares for use as live bait in coursing.

If, as in previous years, the Department of the Environment opts to authorise the hare-netting, coursing events will again be staged from the end of September.

At these, the hares will be forced to run from greyhounds in large wired enclosures, to escape through a narrow hatch... or be mauled, injured, killed, or tossed about like broken dolls - all for the purpose of fun and gambling.

Many of the targeted hares will never see coursing day.

They will die of injuries sustained while being netted or in the course of the unnatural captivity to which they are subjected.

If, however, the minister withholds the hare-netting licence, there can be no coursing. Without hares to course, the baiting events would have to be cancelled.

There are two factors that offer a glimmer of hope to the long-suffering hare. The first is the obvious fact that the Minister for

the Environment, John Gormley, is leader of a party pledged to banning hare-coursing.

The second factor is the Irish government's official acceptance that the Irish Hare is now an endangered species.

Hunting and coursing increase the mounting pressure on this gentle and inoffensive creature.

We appeal to anyone who shares our view of hare-coursing to email the Irish Minister for the Environment, Mr Gormley, asking him to ban this horrible bloodsport. Please send your messages to minister@environ.ie.

John Fitzgerald
Campaign for the Abolition of Cruel Sports

Will-power could help fight against cancer

Readers with new children or grandchildren might feel that now is a good time to make sure their finances are in order.

Making or updating your will is a big part of this, as it can be a reassuring way of planning a secure future for your new loved ones.

As well as providing for your family, it is also a chance to make a lasting contribution to charitable causes.

In the UK, less than four per cent of cancer research is allocated to prevention; the focus tends to be almost exclusively on treatment.

World Cancer Research Fund is leading the way in cancer prevention by funding research which focuses

exclusively on prevention.

By leaving your legacy to our Research for Tomorrow fund, you could help fund this vital research, and what better legacy to leave than a future free from cancer?

To learn more about the Research for Tomorrow fund, phone 020 7343 4205 or visit www.wcrf-uk.org.

Chris Stevens
World Cancer Research Fund

Join us in the war against meningitis

As a patron of Meningitis UK, I'm writing to mark its tenth anniversary.

The charity and its loyal supporters have raised a fantastic £4.7 million towards life-saving research into finding a vaccine for this devastating disease.

I got involved with the meningitis cause after my son Andrew, then 24, almost died after falling ill with the virus. Thankfully, he recovered fully.

We were lucky, but each year in the UK about 300 of the 3,000 people affected by meningitis die.

Meningitis UK's Search 4 a Vaccine Campaign aims to raise £7m to fund research to develop a vaccine against Meningitis B - the strain which causes almost 90 per cent of cases in the UK.

For further information, or to lend your support, please phone Meningitis UK on 0117 373 7373 or visit www.meningitisuk.org

Denis Law, patron for Meningitis UK and former European Footballer of the Year



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BROADSTAIRS WATER GALA

Wednesday, August 19
Viking Bay, Broadstairs

YOU can make a big splash this summer at the Broadstairs Water Gala.

Residents and visitors can look forward to a fantastic day with lots of family entertainment and attractions to enjoy.

Best of all, the event is free and the only charges are for the family fun fair. This means that people can take their families for a great day out without breaking the bank.

The fun starts at 9.30pm with the teddy bears' picnic at Lilliput Mini Golf, followed by King Neptune's dramatic rise from the sea at 10am.

Other attractions include a sandcastle competition, organised beach games, volleyball and Beach Connect Four.

This year's Best Dressed Beach Hut competition has a Viking theme to mark the 60th anniversary of the landing of the Hugin longship at Broadstairs.

There is even more excitement on



offer this year as two popular events from the past return to amuse the crowds. Spectators will witness a ferocious battle on the high seas as competitors face each other in the Millers and Sweeps Raft Race. Will the Millers win the day with their missiles comprising flour bags, or

will the Sweeps reign supreme with their flying bags of soot?

Anyone who would like to get involved in the raft race should phone the harbour master, Andy Wood, on 07847 473615.

The other reinstated event is the greasy-pole knockout, which will see people struggling to stay on the pole while battling an opponent.

There will be prizes on offer for both the adult and children's categories, but competitors are warned that they will get wet. If anyone thinks they are up to the challenge, they should speak to the lifeguards on the day to enter.

Swimmers are invited to take part in the sponsored swim from Ramsgate to Broadstairs. Find out how to take part by calling Neil Morgan on 07812 991445.

During the day, there will be entertainment on the bandstand, followed by a live band in the evening. Those who love to shop will have a ball browsing the craft and trade stalls and there will be refreshments on offer. This fun-packed day draws to a close at 10pm with a firework finale over Viking Bay.

For more information about the Broadstairs Water Gala, phone 01227 700894 or 07789 742828.

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FRUIT EXTRAVAGANZA

Sunday, August 16

Brogdale Farm,
Faversham

DISCOVER the hidden delights of the humble plum at Brogdale's fruit extravaganza this weekend.

Fans of the well-loved Victoria plum can find out about the lesser known but just as delicious varieties, such as Belsiana, Early Rivers, Blackbird and Swan.

At the home of the National Fruit Collections, visitors will be able to view, taste and buy these varieties and will also discover the many different colours, flavours, shapes and textures among the 300 plum types in the collections.

A guided tour, taken either on foot or on a tractor trailer, will enable visitors to learn more about these fascinating



varieties, the history of the plum and its future.

There will also be opportunities to find out how to grow plums in your own gardens, as knowledgeable staff will be on hand to answer any questions.

After a busy day at the col-

lections, visitors can enjoy refreshments at the new Courtyard Cafe and browse the marketplace. Youngsters can get a different perspective on Brogdale's miniature steam railway.

For details more see www.brogdalecollections.co.uk.

GODDESS FESTIVAL

Saturday and Sunday,
August 15-16

Westgate Hall, Canterbury

FOUR giant goddesses will be walking the streets of Canterbury this weekend in a show of pagan pride.

The Goddess Parade 2009 will see the large figures joined by a drumming troupe, musicians, belly dancers, a stilt walker and Morris dancers for the celebrations at 10am on Saturday. Spectators are welcome to dress in the pagan spirit as they witness this vibrant parade.

The main Goddess Festival takes place inside the hall and runs from 10am to 5pm on Saturday and Sunday. More than 2,000 visitors have been attracted to the festival, travelling from all over the UK and overseas.

The entertainment includes performances by inter-



national pagan acts and workshops by well-known authors. There will also be more than 75 exhibitor stands to browse, including jewellery, clothing, health and healing, art, books, mas-

sage and face painting.

Daily tickets cost £5/£2.50 on the door, advance weekend tickets are available online for a discounted rate, see www.magicalfestivals.co.uk for details.

enjoy some culture when classic Greek comedy Lysistrata is performed in Faversham.

The Grass Roots Theatre Company is staging the play in the garden of The Anchor in Abbey Street from Wednesday to Saturday. Performances start at 8pm. Tickets, priced at £5, are available from The Anchor on 01795 536471.

See some free theatre thanks to Arts Council

YOUNG people are invited to experience A Night Less Ordinary by enjoying theatre shows for free.

The Arts Council introduced the free ticket scheme for under-26s earlier this year. The Marlowe Theatre brochure features a number of shows that are included in the scheme.

To book call 01227 787787 or turn up on the night with proof of age.

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 **Your LOCAL TV** ONLINE



 Julie Maddocks takes a tour of the Kent Police Museum

MEDIEVAL MEDICINE

Saturday and Sunday,
August 15-16

The Canterbury Tales, Canterbury

DISCOVER the gruesome world of medieval medicine as a physician of the period tells his terrible tales.

Visitors will be able to learn how patients were treated and assessed hundreds of years ago, including how diagnoses could be made by studying the sufferer's urine.

The mandrake plant is familiar to millions of readers and cinemagoers, after being featured in Harry Potter's herbology classes at Hogwarts, and visitors will find more about this fascinating plant's story.

Learn about the Four Humours, by which early physicians believed they could judge the health of



their patients, and cast your eyes over replica tools such as the surgeon's bloodletting bowl and medicinal leeches.

Listen to the physician's gruesome stories as he reveals some of the causes of disease in medieval Britain.

The Medieval Physician,

His Medicine and Cures runs from 11am to 4pm both days. Admission costs £7.75/£6.75 for adults and £5.75 for children, event-only tickets are £3/£2. For more information visit at www.canterburytales.org.uk or call 01227 784600.

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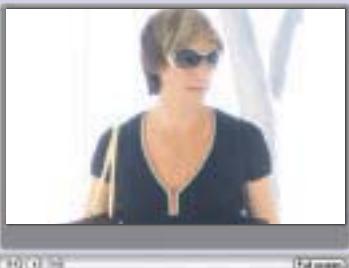
ON GENERAL RELEASE

HARRY POTTER AND THE HALF-BLOOD PRINCE (12A)



With the evil Voldemort on the rise, the students at Hogwarts have to be ever-more vigilant about who is among them.

BRÜNO (18)



Sacha Baron Cohen adopts the role of gay, crass, insolent fashionista Brüno from Austria, who tours the US looking to set up unsuspecting locals with his outrageous brand of 'interviewing'.

THE PRIVATE LIVES OF PIPPA LEE (15)



Robin Wright Penn stars as Pippa Lee, a woman heading for a mental breakdown after moving to a retirement village with her older husband, and subsequently has an affair with her friend's son.

Sienna is no stranger to the role of femme fatale

■ BY SUSAN GRIFFIN

FROM the on-off engagement to Jude Law, to the rumoured romance with father-of-four Balthazar Getty, via the lovelorn Welsh actor Rhys Ifans who proposed three times, it feels like we know more about Sienna Miller's relationship credentials than her acting ones.

It's a fact that hasn't bypassed the 27-year-old actress, who's more than aware of the impact her public break-up with Law in 2005 had on her career.

It set the tone for her life in the world's spotlight. Incessantly hounded by the paparazzi, Sienna hit back and has won numerous legal battles against newspapers and photo agencies in an attempt to protect her privacy.

"Yes, being on the cover of a magazine appeals to studios. But it plays against your work. A lot of people still feel I'm not a proper actress," she said of the Press intrusion in an interview last year.

In the same interview, she admitted being "a people-pleaser" who needed to learn to censor herself.

Fast-forward to 2009, and talking to the actress about her latest role as The Baroness in GI Joe: The Rise Of Cobra, it's clear Sienna has indeed toughened up. Even in vertiginous heights, Sienna makes a petite figure, more 'pretty girl groomed' than intimidatingly stunning; it's her wide, open smile that's the movie-star give-away.

"I'm a good cop" is what she will say on being tabloid fodder. "I'm a happy person and I've got a great, fortunate life and I'm really just generally happy."

Sienna and her fellow cast members, includ-



FIGHTER: Miller plays the role of The Baroness in GI Joe

ing Dennis Quaid and Channing Tatum, are in London on the second stop of a worldwide tour to promote the much-anticipated summer blockbuster GI Joe: The Rise Of Cobra.

Based on the characters of the comic book, animated series and GI Joe action figure, this is Sienna's first big-budget Hollywood movie.

"Initially, I was really intimidated because it was a crew of a thousand," she says. "But I quickly adapted and it was so much fun, it was a really, really cool experience."

Plus she gets to play femme fatale and all-round kick-ass villain The Baroness.

Sienna has been quietly growing critical

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acclaim for her performances in small, independent movies such as The Edge Of Love where she played Dylan Thomas's wife Caitlin opposite Keira Knightley and her stellar performance as Edie Sedgwick in Factory Girl.

All the GI Joe cast have signed up for another two movies, as long as this one is a box-office success, although Sienna is adamant that there's no move to Hollywood in the pipeline.

"I'm staying at home, I can't leave London. It's great because I get to travel a lot with work, but it'll always be my home here," she says.

This autumn she will indeed be hopping over the Atlantic to star in the Broadway play After Miss Julie, alongside Johnny Lee Miller.

Before that, though, "it's a case of getting through the promotion of this".

G.I. JOE : THE RISE OF THE COBRA 
Certificate 12A

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Hop Farm weekenders' pay tribute to industry's finest

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

A HOST of the UK's top tribute acts will converge on the Hop Farm this Friday for the first of two back-to-back rock and pop weekends.

The unique music festivals cover a wide range of genres from James Brown to Robbie Williams and Abba to Dolly Parton.

A Hop Farm spokesman said they were looking forward to welcoming dozens of doppelgangers to the Paddock Wood venue.

They said: "Music fans can experience a unique blend of camping and musical mayhem with some of the UK's top tribute acts this August at The Hop Farm."

"Having recently hosted numerous high-profile music and entertainment events, rock and pop weekends at The Hop Farm are a welcome addition to the fantastic events calendar for 2009."

"Featuring acts such as Amy Connolly from X-Factor, the renowned tribute kings the Merseybeat Legends, and super troupers Abba Arrival, along with Robbie (Williams), The Great Pretender, a Bootleg Blondie and many more besides, the respective weekends are set to be a full-on musical extravaganza."

Other acts on the bill include Kenny Rogers and a Brian May tribute duo.

Weekend tickets cost £35 for adults. Day tickets cost £15 for adults and £5 per child. A weekend family pass - consisting of two adults and two children - is priced at £85.

For more information visit www.thehopfarm.co.uk.



TRIBUTE ACTS: Robbie Williams and the Merseybeat Legends are just two of the acts coming to the Hop Farm

CONFIRMED LINE-UP

Friday, August 14 - Saturday 15

Abba Arrival, Tina Turner, Robbie Williams, Everley Brothers, Merseybeat Legends, Motown Sisters

Friday, August 21 - Saturday 22

Dolly Parton, Kenny Rogers, James Brown, Brian May tribute duo



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MUSICAL EXPRESS: Los Salvadores perform at the Lounge on the Farm



BEACH OUT: Amber Room performing at Folkestone's recent Hevy 2009 festival



TOP FIVE UNSIGNED CHART

- 1 Directions - Golden Light (from Maidstone)
- 2 Suspects - He Said (from Margate)
- 3 Shelta - Lets Talk (from Bexley)
- 4 D-Finitive - Space (from Tenterden)
- 5 Ron Bowdery - Who You Gonna Blame (New Eltham)



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SWALE SHOPPING

Say what you like for a chance to win cash

SHOPPERS could win £500 to spend at County Square Shopping Centre in Ashford by taking part in a survey.

The management team is keen to hear customers' impressions of County Square to help improve services.

So go online to register your likes, dislikes and shopping habits and give yourself a chance of being the lucky winner who picks up a £500 prize.

Visit www.countysquareshoppingcentre.com by Sunday if you want to enter.

We're All Going On A Bear Hunt at bookstore

YOUNG readers are invited to meet the bear from classic picture book We're All Going On A Bear Hunt.

Waterstone's at Bluewater is holding a special event to mark the 20th anniversary of the best-selling children's book by former Children's Laureate Michael Rosen and illustrator Helen Oxenbury.

The bear will be making appearances at the store at half-hourly intervals between 11am and 4pm on Saturday.

For more details, phone 01322 624831.

Enjoy the scent of the summer with coconut

ANYONE who has missed out on a foreign holiday this year can capture the holiday fragrance with The Body Shop's Coconut range.

The scented range includes Coconut Body Butter (£12.20), Body Scrub (£12.20), Lip Butter (£4.85) and Foaming Bath (£7.80). They are made with organic virgin coconut oil from Samoa as part of the Community Trade scheme.

See the range in stores or online at www.thebodyshop.com.

Bag yourself a great deal on the designers

GET the latest celebrity look on a recession-friendly budget as Bagnificent announces its latest special offer.

To celebrate the launch of the new-look website, the company is offering a 15 per cent discount on all its bags.

Shop for top brands such as Prada, Gucci and Miu Miu at discounted prices and get yourself some designer arm-candy this season.

Visit www.bagnificent.co.uk to see what is on offer.

Protect their pearly whites with animal fun

MAKE brushing fun for children with one of the innovative new Flipper toothbrush holders.

Created by a Kent-based company, Flippers come in a variety of animal-shaped and patterned designs, making them suitable for all ages.

With a mechanism that holds the brush in place and protects the head when not in use, Flipper is a fun and hygienic way to look after your toothbrush. Flippers cost £5.99 at www.myflipper.co.uk.

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YOUR TV REVIEW

■ BY TOM BETTS

ECONOMY GASTRONOMY

BBC Two, 8pm, Wednesday

SINCE the infernal credit crunch, economic downturn, financial slump, recession, or whatever you want to call the monetary hell many of us are going through began, the box has been full of shows telling us how to pinch pennies to navigate our way through the whole ruddy mess.

BBC Two has hopped on to the money-saving bandwagon, but instead of telling us to fill up our cars with chip-fat it is showing us how to make savings by really thinking about what goes in the oven and into the dark recesses of the freezer.

In Economy Gastronomy, professional chefs Allegra McEvedey and Paul Merrett put a 'shopping strategically' plan into place for the participating families.

It may all sound a bit silly and twee, until you look at the statistics.

On the first show of the run, the England family stuck to a new regime and ditched their two takeaways a week to make a little bit more effort with the food that disappears down their collective pie-holes.

It's all about meal-planning, say the experts, who dished out wallet-friendly recipes for things like macaroni cheese and chilli con carne with the enthusiasm of a wasp relishing the chance to ruin a barbecue.

All this is mixed in with tips on how to 'make something out of nothing' and making more of what you keep in the cupboards, such as not keeping your block of cheese wrapped in cling-film because it makes it go off quicker.

This is all a bit idealistic when you think about it.

We don't all have the time, or indeed the inclination, to plan our weekly trudge around Asda like a well-honed



EARNING THEIR STRIPES: Allegra McEvedey and Paul Merrett give money-saving advice

military operation, meaning this show initially comes across as a bit over the top.

However, the family saved themselves about £87 a week, or roughly £4,500 a year, by not deviating from their set course.

That's a new car, a couple of holidays, or about 1,500 pints a year – or 25 pints if you drink in London.

Not so funny now, is it?

If you can afford to carry on eating like a monarch, then all this is probably wasted on you, but I for one can't, and – whisper it – I think I actually learnt a little something.

So it's a man-sized vat of bulk-cooked macaroni cheese for my dinner for the foreseeable future.

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YOUR WEEK'S HOROSCOPE BY RUSSELL GRANT



AQUARIUS

(Jan 21-Feb 19) YOU need to respect a loved one's boundaries. Yes, you're anxious to take this relationship further, but you have no respect for tradition. That's not necessarily a bad thing, but it does cause problems for your other half. Try seeing things from their point of view.

- To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aquarius** 09067-531762

PISCES

(Feb 20-Mar 20) SOMEONE'S refusal to acknowledge your anger will have explosive results. Stop trying to suppress your rage for the sake of peace. Until you get these feelings out in the open, they'll continue to fester. Stop attributing good motives to everyone you meet.

- To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Pisces** 09067-531763

ARIES

(Mar 21-Apr 20) NO matter how much you yell and scream a stubborn colleague won't change their ways. Friends have a way of going back on their promises this week. Ultimately, you are on your own. For the short-term future, you've got to summon every ounce of strength to perform the tasks ahead.

- To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aries** 09067-531752

CANCER

(Jun 23-Jul 23) DEPRESSION could be clouding your outlook. Stop giving into your worst fears. Even if you do meet with disappointment, it will be better than being held prisoner by fear. If you're attracted to someone make a play for their affections. You're more desirable than you realise.

- To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Cancer** 09067-531755

LIBRA

(Sep 24-Oct 23) GIVING in to your worst fears is keeping you frozen in time. You need to venture out of your comfort zone, even at the risk of getting hurt. A pushy teacher or know-it-all professional could rub you the wrong way. Work out whether their provocative ways could motivate you.

- To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Libra** 09067-531758

CAPRICORN

(Dec 22-Jan 20) IT takes time to get experience. If you're going to make progress in your chosen profession you've got to pay your dues. Don't be afraid to take on the thankless tasks everyone else avoids. After doing a good job with these duties some better opportunities will come your way.

- To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Capricorn** 09067-531761

GEMINI

(May 22-Jun 22) IT looks like family is standing in the way of your advancement. If you're going to make your dreams come true you need to break free from these confining relationships. That may mean moving into your own place, getting a job or cutting yourself off from some family members.

- To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Gemini** 09067-531754

LEO

(Jul 24-Aug 23)

FINANCIAL

restrictions

are driving you to distraction.

You're tired of having to

scrimp and save while everybody

else seems to be able to buy what

they want, when they want.

Remember friends may look flush

with cash, but are actually drowning

in debt.

• To find out more about what the stars have in

store call Russell on **Leo** 09067-531756

VIRGO

(Aug 24-Sep 23) DONT give into an urge to undercut an authority figure's enthusiasm. Although their plans seem totally unrealistic, you should at least pretend to be supportive or your boss will turn you into a scapegoat. Beware of taking on too many jobs at work.

- To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Virgo** 09067-531757

SCORPIO

(Oct 24-Nov 22)

LOVE

and friendship

don't always mix.

Resist the urge to make a move on some-

one you have known for years.

Although the initial encounter

will be fun, you'll be filled with

remorse afterwards.

If you are in a

relationship, you may be tempted

to set up a friend on a blind date.

• To find out more about what the stars have in

store call Russell on **Scorpio** 09067-531759

SAGITTARIUS

(Nov 23-Dec 21) SOMEONE near and dear to you is trying to push you into an undesirable arrangement. Your ambitions are different from theirs. It's time to set them straight, even at the risk of a temporary separation. In time, your friend will realise it is wrong to try to change you.

- To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Sagittarius** 09067-531760

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Living like a god in sunny Cyprus

■ BY KATIE HODGE

FROM the moment I touched down in southern Cyprus, I was whisked into another realm.

I was off to cavort with the gods – in a junior suite at The Amathus, a hotel perched on the seafront and a stone's throw from the centre of old-town Paphos.

My room was palatial, with beautiful marble bathroom, minimalist Manhattan-style decor and a private, floodlit plunge-pool.

A welcoming – and welcome – bottle of champagne set the tone, and a sophisticated bunch of flowers brought some Cypriot warmth to the room.

I began my days like any self-respecting Goddess: indulgently. Breakfast on the sun-drenched terrace was, predictably, a feast from the heavens.

On the first morning I opted for American pancakes with maple syrup and wafer-thin bacon. And I would have stopped there, only I spotted the cereal bar.

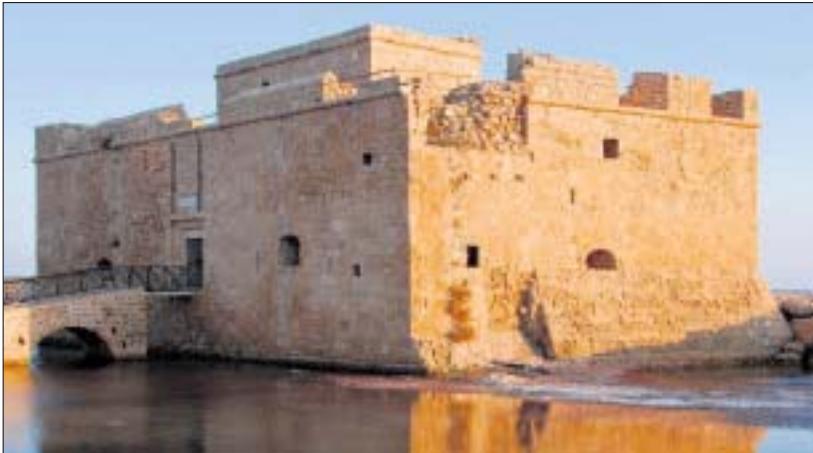
But gods must concern themselves with higher matters, and leaving gastronomic delights behind me I made my way deeper into the ancient world.

UNESCO has recently added the whole town of Paphos to its World Heritage list, and not without reason.

Once the island's capital, Paphos is now famous for the remains of the Roman governor's palace, with its strikingly well-preserved mosaics of times long past.

Wandering around these ruins opens a door into another world, bringing history sharply into focus and leaving the wide-eyed explorer feeling humbled.

Cyprus, the third-largest Mediterranean



TIMES GONE BY: Paphos Castle is just one the many famous remains to be found dotted around the island of Cyprus

island, is at the crossroads of three continents.

The geographical position has, since antiquity, played an important part in its turbulent history, while the influences of Africa, Asia and Europe abound.

At my first stop, the Tombs of the Kings, I felt like I'd been dropped on to the set of some epic fantasy film. The large necropolis, lying just over a mile north-west of Paphos Harbour and carved out of solid rock, dates back to the Hellenistic and early Roman periods.

Named due to their magnificence, the tombs are open to all and are remarkably untouched – a lack of tourist barriers means visitors can wander at leisure into the caverns, seemingly discovering them for the first time.

Moving further inland, you can visit prehistoric settlements, Greek temples, Roman theatres, Byzantine churches and monasteries.

Tranquil villages are scattered over inland regions, dotted with churches where old traditions and customs have been kept alive. Those wanting a complete picture of the island need to allow for a longer visit than the few days I had.

One trip to the lesser-developed area of Polis in the south was well worth a couple of hours on the road. Nestling in the Mediterranean landscape, the Saint Neophytes Monastery and the Egkleistra – a small cave carved out of the rock face by a hermit in the 12th century – were also must-sees.

Is it possible to have too much of the sights and sounds of Cyprus? Not in three days, and probably not in three lifetimes – this is when it helps to be immortal.

Unfortunately for me, I had a flight to catch: I wasn't born a goddess, after all.

FACT FILE: CYPRUS

Time difference	+ Three hours (GMT)
Capital	Nicosia
Language	Greek and Turkish
Population	Approx 1 million
Currency	£1 equals about 1.2 euros
Religion	Greek Orthodox, Muslim
Climate	Mediterranean

Travel details

Katie Hodge was a guest of Amathus Beach Hotel, Paphos, and Sovereign Holidays which offers seven nights' half-board at the hotel from £849 (two sharing), including free dining upgrade to half-board and online discount, saving £552 per couple. Package includes return flights ex-Gatwick, private transfers, 24-hour Sovereign Concierge Service and ex-UK VIP airport lounge access.

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PROPERTY NEWS

£925m plan to restart development projects

THE Government has announced a £925 million initiative that could allow work to recommence on 270 stalled development projects across England.

According to the Housing Minister John Healey, the scheme could get building work on 22,400 homes back on track and create 20,000 jobs.

Every region already has projects shortlisted under the Kickstart Programme, which forms part of Prime Minister Gordon Brown's Housing Pledge.

More than 8,600 of the homes created by the scheme will be for affordable rent or sale, with two-thirds built to a standard above building regulations, in an attempt to cut CO2 emissions and reduce energy bills for the families that live in them.

More than a third of the funding will go to housing associations and slightly under one-fifth to support developers in the form of direct grants, but only where firms cannot obtain finance from other sources.

In addition, the Government expects almost half the money to be repaid within five years.

'Change of use' law not good news for landlords

LANDLORDS already having to cope with legislation surrounding the rental market may find themselves hit with extra costs and work if Government proposals come into force.

The housing market downturn has led to a proliferation of landlords who have arrived in the sector almost by default as homeowners who need to relocate, but are unable to sell, turn to the rental market for a solution.

According to experts, ministers are proposing changes that will affect houses in multiple occupation, such as student accommodation.

One is that a 'change of use' under planning law could be required if the number of people occupying a rental property exceeds three unrelated individuals.

The cost of obtaining the consent, plus the risk of a void period cropping up during the process, could therefore add to the burden of both amateur and professional landlords.

The Residential Landlords Association has said it will fight the changes, which are aimed at preventing residential areas in certain cities becoming predominantly occupied by students.



Refusal to lend holds up property sector's revival

■ BY NICK AMES

PROPERTY lending reached a 14-month high in June, but is still far below traditionally normal levels, according to the latest figures revealed by Bank of England.

And financial experts say the lack of finances available to would-be homebuyers is holding back the recovery in the market.

The bank said mortgage approvals were up 35.2 per cent on June last year at 47,584, but this figure represented only about half the previous average figure of 93,400 monthly mortgage approvals.

And it is a sign that despite pent-up demand, property buyers are simply not able to access the finance they need, real estate experts warn.

The whole issue of lack of finance is holding back a property sector revival, analysts believe.

New figures from Nationwide, the UK's largest building society, show that prices increased 1.3 per cent in July, the fourth increase in five months.

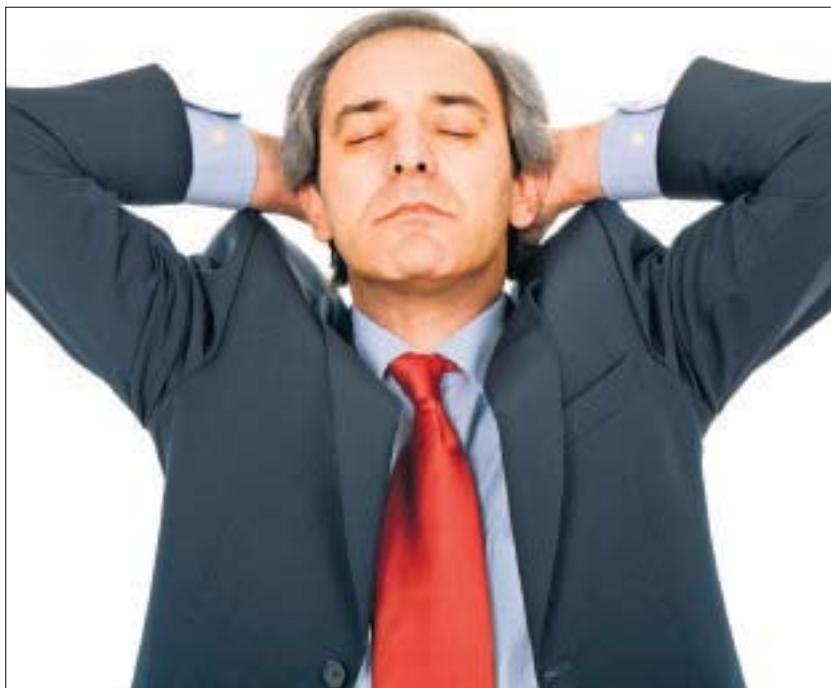
Its chief economist Martin Gahbauer said that tight supply, pent-up demand and historically low interest rates had been enough to produce a bounce in prices despite the economic downturn and lack of finance.

But questions remain over the stability of property prices and restrictive lending criteria still being used by banks.

There is still a great deal of concern over the state of the economy and long-term employment figures, suggesting growth in mortgage lending will be slow at best.

"These figures are positive news, but it is still extremely difficult to arrange mortgage finance for the majority of prospective buyers.

"Unless you have a sizeable deposit, a good salary, a safe job and a faultless credit history, you'll struggle to be accepted for a loan," said



Andrew Montlake, director at independent mortgage broker Coreco.

Paul Samter, economist at the Council of Mortgage Lenders, believes that any recovery will be slow and drawn out.

He said: "The outlook is still sluggish as capacity constraints on the lending industry and continuing deterioration in the labour market will act as a brake on the pick up."

The latest figures from the Building Societies Association also indicate a slight improvement in lending. Its data shows that gross mortgage

lending by building societies was just under £2 billion in June, the highest level seen this year and up 30 per cent on May.

"Lending remains at historically low levels and is 40 per cent lower than in June last year. While these signs of improvement are welcome, activity is still very weak."

"Net lending is only a small fraction of the levels seen through 2008 and lending for house purchases remains about 50 per cent below the long-run average," said Brian Morris, head of savings policy at the BSA.

Site warning to children during summer holidays

have recently started work on three new developments.

"Our construction teams watch out for youngsters while they are working and we secure our sites when we finish for the day. But we also ask parents to make sure they know where their children are during the holiday time."

Ward Homes holds regular safety talks and site visits for schools close to where it is building in order to highlight the hazards of playing on or near construction sites.

"It's important to get youngsters thinking about the dangers that exist and get the message across that they should stay away," he said.

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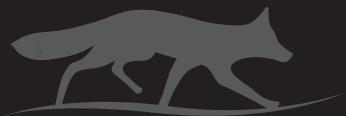
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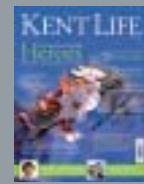
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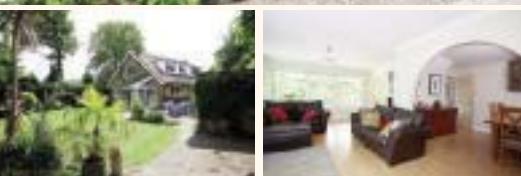
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REF: 0000000130



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Hi I'm Katie, caring, fun-loving, 5ft, slim single mum of 2. Enjoy clubbing out and cosy nights in with genuine man. Box 453269

MATCH OF THE DAY!

Fun-to-be-with, blonde female, 25, 5ft2, a woman who loves football! Enjoys going out and staying in, looking for a like-minded man, to be her soulmate. Box 446494

NOT YOUR BROWN-EYED GIRL, BUT...

Blue-eyed blonde, 37, 5ft1, loves films, walking, darts, pool, singing, me time! Looking for honest guy with GSOH, to get to know. Box 880105

GETTING TO KNOW YOU...

Sociable girl, 28, loves pubs, social drinks, meeting new people & more, seek similar male, 58-62, for a lasting relationship. Box 448756

GIVE AND TAKE IN LOVE

Loving loyal female, 30, blue eyes, brown hair, seeking LTR with male 30-35, 5ft+, no baggage, in the Maidstone area. Box 448471

YOURS AND YOURS ONLY

Attractive, down-to-earth British-Indian single mum, 29, WLTM white British male, 29-34, no ties for long-term relationship. Box 883431

SEEKING MR DARCY

Warm, kind and sincere woman, 31, lots of love and loyalty for the right person, seeking an honest genuine man with a good heart. Box 451004

HORSES FOR COURSES...

Caring, loving, affectionate female, 30, 5ft2, blonde, likes walking, horse riding, animals, seeks affectionate male, 30-40, for lasting, loving relationship. Box 884013

IN THE COUNTRY

Are you the one? I'm 33, single, 5ft2, pure country lass from farming background, seeking my lovely country man to make me forever happy. Box 882265

A FAIRYTALE ENDING!

Princess Fiona, 34, looking to meet her Shrek, 5ft8, short brown/blonde hair, blue eyes, large build, seeks romantic caring guy for friendship, maybe! Box 877957

GOOD LUCK CHARM

Sporty female, 34, 5ft2, likes the gym, beach walks, Tennis and cycling, WLTM similar male in his 30s for friendship in Eastbourne. Box 453712

FEAST YOUR EYES ON ME...

Hello I'm Andrea, 35, petite 5ft3, shoulder length curly hair. I enjoy eating out, cinema and I'm looking for friendship and possible long term relationship. Box 453039

SOUND GOOD?

Hello I'm 35, kind, caring and non-smoking, enjoy cooking, cinema, music, dining in and out, looking for that special someone to enjoy a relationship with. Box 447959

HAPPY DAYS!

Attractive, fun-loving female, 31, 5ft4", size 12, dark hair with blonde highlights, tactile, WLTM intelligent, professional, attractive guy, for a happy relationship. Tunbridge Wells. Box 808734

SEALED WITH A KISS

Petite lady, 36, long hair, blue eyes, single mum, enjoys holidays, wineing and dining, laughing, seeks loyal, loving man for friendship and more. Box 453079

STARRY NIGHTS

Hi I'm Sam, single mum from Kent, brown hair! enjoy swimming nights in/out looking for a caring man to share the best thing in life. Box 878378



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MEND A BROKEN HEART

Single mum, 37, fun-loving, been hurt in past, looking for nice, genuine guy for hopefully happiness - no time wasters! Box 908053

SEIZE THE DAY

Loving female, 36, 5ft4, brown hair, blue eyes, likes socialising, staying in, seeks genuine male for friendship and more. Box 428666

CUTE AS CAN BE

Cute single mum of four, 38, Kent-based, into most things, looking for friendship, possibly romance. Box 897983

BLONDE AMBITION

Bubbly, cuddly, blonde single mum, 39, 5ft6, likes cars, reading, pubs, cosy nights in, having a laugh, looking for that right male for LTR. Box 906154

A SOUL MATE

Black Christian girl, 39, likes country music, loving, considerate, kind and caring, looking for a like-minded man, 32-50, with a pretty inside. Box 453068

ENTHUSIASM ENCOURAGED!

Lovely pretty big-busted lady, 39, medium build, 5ft5, lots of energy! likes the gym, reading, new experiences! seeking a nice man for potential exciting relationship! Box 446724

PERFECT MATCH

Hi I'm Nikki, 5ft7, brown hair, green eyes, enjoys animals especially my pets. Looking for a tall man who has a personality compatible with mine Box 453374

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MOTORS NEWS



Fiesta time for Ford as awards keep piling up

AUTO Express magazine has lauded the Ford Fiesta at its 2009 awards. The supermini – the UK's best-seller – not only scooped the overall Car of the Year 2009, but was also judged Best Supermini.

Ford also took the Best MPV award with its sporty S-Max and earned commendations for the Ka, Kuga and two Mondeo models. Auto Express editor-in-chief David Johns, said of the Fiesta: "The sleek exterior makes many rivals look dated, while the cutting-edge cabin is as distinctive as it is attractive."



Hard-up buyers can't fall back on used cars

PRICES for used cars have rocketed, leaving recession-hit buyers struggling to find deals.

Trade valuation 'bible' Glass's Guide reports used stocks at an "all-time low" with no sign of improvement. The problem stems from private and corporate new car buyers backing off new acquisitions at the first signs of recession, choking used supplies further down the line.

Glass's rival CAP says small car values are most robust, but open-tops and MPVs like the Toyota Verso (pictured) are rising.



Eco-friendly Nissan are turning over new Leaf

NISSAN has announced an affordable and practical electric car that could be with us within two years.

The Leaf not only has the right name for a zero-emission car, but also looks the part while being able to cover 100 miles on its lithium-ion batteries; 80 per cent of their capacity can then be restored by a 30-minute charge – the nose panel conceals the charging point.

Pricing should be competitive too since, unlike hybrids, an electric car is less complex and cheaper to make.



IT'S LOOKING GOOD: Peugeot's 207 delivers a good ride with decent comfort and wears its size well with sharp styling, a deep window line and huge sweeping headlamps

Peugeot supermini style still attractive to buyers

IT took time for Peugeot to hit the mark on superminis, but it has been on target ever since.

The purple patch stretches back to the 1980s 205, which became the best-selling Peugeot of all time during a 14-year run, only for the record to be smashed by its 206 successor.

That car was only partially replaced by the 207 tested here, continuing as a bargain basement alternative built in Slovakia.

The bigger 207 wears its size well with sharp styling, a deep window line and huge sweeping headlamps. Not surprisingly, it is also roomier and more comfortable inside than the 206, even if the raked back cramped rear seating and headroom and costs some boot space, though the 60/40 split seats fold flat to create a van-like rear.

The airy cabin was enhanced on the test car by the optional Cielo panoramic roof – a no-brainer really at £400 extra – and all this light falls on quality materials and an excellent dashboard layout far superior to the old 206's.

Extra audio controls are mounted on a wide stalk to the right of the steering column; obviously cheaper than attaching them to the

ROAD TEST PEUGEOT 207

■ BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal



Image



Space



Value



Running costs



Reliability



Green rating



wheel itself yet easily accessible whatever steering lock is applied. A lack of cabin stowage is the only real concern.

Once on the move, you re-discover Peugeot's forte in supermini chassis designs that consistently deliver a good drive with decent ride comfort.

The 207 grips well and can be pressed hard, with well-controlled body roll on the corners.

Engine choice runs from the lively 1.4-litre entry petrol engine – a better way into 207 ownership than it appears – to mainstay 1.6-litre petrol variants and two similar capacity diesel line-ups.

Our high level Sport spec test car had the 1.6-litre HDi diesel unit in mid-range 90bhp output, which is a fine all-rounder (model price: £14,495).

It can be a bit raucous when cold and under pressure, but there is plenty of pulling power for safer exiting of junctions or overtaking, though the five-speed gearbox feels vague.

The 207 can look pricey, but has to be on any supermini shopping list and the current Verve special edition is a good deal from £12,040 with alloys and air con as standard.

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2002 02 RENAULT Espace 2.0 16v Privilege 5 Doors, Automatic, Estate, Petrol, 64,000 miles, Metallic Silver, MOT-08-2010, 1 Owner. Rear wiper, Air conditioning, Metallic paintwork.....	£4,595
2004 04 FORD Fiesta 1.4 Zetec 3 Doors, Manual, Hatchback, Petrol, 41,000 miles, Metallic Blue, MOT-07-2010, 2 Owners. Rear wiper, Passenger airbag, Height adjustable.....	£3,995
2003 03 MG ZT 2.5 180 + Sports 4 Doors, Automatic, Saloon, Petrol, 69,000 miles, Metallic Grey, MOT-09-2009, 1 Owner. Air conditioning, Lumbar support, Passenger airbag.....	£3,495
2000 W VAUXHALL Zafira 1.6 Club 5 Doors, Manual, Estate, Petrol, 58,000 miles, Metallic Silver, MOT-03-2010, 1 Owner. Rear wiper, Air conditioning, Immobiliser, Passenger.....	£2,995
2001 Y FORD Focus 2.0 Ghia 5 Doors, Manual, Hatchback, Petrol, 84,000 miles, Silver, MOT-06-2010. Rear wiper, Air conditioning, Tinted glass, Foglights, Heated door.....	£2,895
2002 52 PEUGEOT 206 1.4 Quicksilver 3 Doors, Manual, Hatchback, Petrol, 87,000 miles, Metallic Silver, MOT-07-2010, 2 Owners. Rear wiper, Air conditioning, Cloth upholstery.....	£2,894
2000 W VAUXHALL Astra 1.6i 16v CD 5 Doors, Automatic, Hatchback, Petrol, 65,000 miles, Silver, MOT-05-2010, 2 Owners. Rear wiper, Air conditioning, Heated door mirrors.....	£2,695
2000 X LAND ROVER Freelander 1.8 Xi Station Wagon 5 Doors, Manual, Station Wagon, Petrol, 78,000 miles, Metallic Red, MOT-02-2010. Rear wiper, Full size spare wheel, Air conditioning.....	£2,695
2002 02 ROVER 25 1.4 iL 5 Doors, Manual, Hatchback, Petrol, 58,000 miles, Gold, MOT-06-2010, 1 Owner. Rear wiper, Lumbar support, Height adjustable drivers seat.....	£2,595
2001 Y FORD Focus 1.6 Zetec 5 Doors, Manual, Hatchback, Petrol, 81,376 miles, Green, MOT-03-2010. Rear wiper, Passenger airbag, Cloth seat trim, Power assisted.....	£2,495
2001 51 FIAT Punto 1.2 5 Doors, Manual, Hatchback, Petrol, 68,000 miles, Blue, MOT-10-2009. Rear wiper, Folding rear seats, Lumbar support, Passenger airbag.....	£1,995
1999 T FORD Fiesta 1.25 Zetec 3 Doors, Manual, Hatchback, Petrol, Black, MOT-10-2009. Rear wiper, Full size spare wheel, Drivers airbag, Cloth seat trim, Trip computer.....	£1,695
1997 VAUXHALL Astra 1.6i 16v Arctic II 5 Doors, Automatic, Hatchback, Petrol, Silver. Adjustable seats, Air conditioning, Alloy wheels, Anti theft system, Central locking, Colour.....	£1,595
1999 T FORD Focus 1.6 LX 5 Doors, Manual, Hatchback, Petrol, 97,620 miles, Metallic Green, MOT-03-2010. Cloth seat trim, Central locking, Cloth upholstery, Driver.....	£1,595
2001 51 SUZUKI Swift 1.3 GLS 3 Doors, Manual, Hatchback, Petrol, 72,000 miles, Red, MOT-07-2010. Rear wiper, Folding rear seats, Front electric windows, Immobiliser.....	£1,595
04/04 Ford Fiesta 1.4 Zetec 3 door, Metallic Blue 41,000 miles Service History	£3995.00

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USED CAR ROUND-UP:

OUR PICK FROM A KEY SECTOR

HONDA CR-V



HONDA'S CR-V is one of the best compact SUVs, but sales of the smart first generation car were hamstrung by the lack of a diesel option. That changed with the more rugged Mark II (pictured) and continues through the current and more stylish model – one of the smoothest, quietest and most economical diesels in the sector. All CR-Vs have smart, durable and versatile cabins, plus Honda reliability and, latterly, a 'Made in Britain' tag from production at Honda Swindon.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

SMALLER 4x4s

IT'S not hard to see why compact 4x4 or sports utility vehicle (SUV) sales boomed ahead of the recession. By combining trendy off-road looks and high riding MPV versatility carmakers scored a double bull's-eye. Hi-tech diesels also allowed owners to buy image without paying wallet-busting fuel prices, but even small 4x4s are now seen as less socially and environmentally acceptable and used prices have fallen. However, one person's distress sale can be another's bargain buy – three of the best are featured here.

TOYOTA RAV



TOYOTA'S original RAV4 was dubbed 'the GTI off-roader' and revolutionised the small 4x4 sector. The Japanese marque recognised that few 4x4s actually went anywhere where they needed extra traction, so it concentrated on maximising on-road performance and comfort – the RAV was a huge success. The Mark II (pictured) was chunkier and roomier with removable rear seats while the current range has folding rear seats. Marks I and II included three as well as five-door models.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

KIA SPORTAGE



KIA pretty much copied the RAV4 formula to create the Sportage, but this is no poor copy. Early examples couldn't match the driving experience of the RAV, but interior build and general rough ground ability is impressive. A midlife makeover boosted quality and on-road handling and attracted an awesome seven-year warranty. Diesels are the best buys, purely on grounds of economy. Shop around and you can also save on the two-wheel drive version, a recent introduction to the range.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

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MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint an outstanding individual in the following areas:

Lecturer in Sport Ref: P0102

Salary: £20,700 - £29,622 per annum/pro rata. Full time and part time positions available

The College is looking for passionate and enthusiastic professionals to join the Sports team to teach, assess and participate in the development of Sports programmes. The successful candidates will hold at least a level three qualification and have some teaching/training experience along side industrial expertise. They must hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification. Previous applicants need not apply.

ICT Technical I.L.T Support Engineer Ref: P0653

Salary: £18,433 - £23,640 per annum

The College is looking for passionate and enthusiastic professionals to join the Sports team to teach, assess and participate in the development of Sports programmes. The successful candidates will hold at least a level three qualification and have some teaching/training experience along side industrial expertise. They must hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification. Previous applicants need not apply.

Closing date: Friday 21 August 2009

MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 884402 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

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Contact us to request further details and an application form.
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Closing Date : 02 September 2009

In partnership with The Dover, Deal and Sandwich 14-19 Planning Forum, South Kent College is seeking to appoint the following to work within the new Dover Construction Skills Centre in Whitfield, which is to open in September 2009:

Trainer

(Fixed-term until 31/07/2011) Variable Hours Ref:T1395

You will deliver a co-ordinated, integrated construction craft programme to students between entry level and level 2. You will be qualified to C&G Craft, NVQ Level 2 or equivalent in Bricklaying, Painting and Decorating or Carpentry and Joinery, and have or be committed to obtaining a teaching qualification and A1 Award or equivalent. Recent and relevant industrial experience in general building work is essential as well as excellent communication skills and a commitment to student success.

The closing date for applications is 5pm on Monday 17th August 2009. Interviews will be held Monday 24th August 2009 at South Kent College, Shorncliffe Road, Folkestone.

For further information or an application pack please contact the Human Resources Department on 0845 207 8222 (24 hour answerphone), email: humanresources@southkent.ac.uk or visit www.southkent.ac.uk

All posts are subject to a disclosure check by the Criminal Records Bureau. We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expect all employees to share this commitment. Applications are welcome from suitably qualified candidates regardless of ethnicity, gender, age, disability, sexuality or religion.



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A good knowledge and working understanding of National Minimum Standards and the Ofsted inspection process.

Strong motivation and leadership skills.

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The role offers good salary and benefit packages, including Health Plan, Pension and support from Area Managers.

Please contact the Personnel Department for an application form:
**Cheesemans Farmhouse, Alland Grange Lane, Manston, Kent, CT12 5BZ
01843 823762 or email jackie.brandon@ethelberthomes.co.uk**

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Family Literacy and Numeracy Tutor Ref CA0725E

To plan and deliver literacy and numeracy courses to parents and carers in schools and community venues.

Skills for Life Literacy Ref CA0726E 18.5 hours per week

Skills for Life Numeracy Ref CA0727E 18.5 hours per week

We are recruiting for enthusiastic and committed Skills for Life tutors to teach across all levels from Entry Level 3 to Level 2. Delivery will take place in a range of settings including Train to Gain, family literacy/numeracy, Fast Track to Level 2 and community projects.

For all part-time tutor posts you need to be qualified or highly skilled in the subject specialism, qualified to teach adults. If you do not hold a Cert Ed, DTLLS or PTLLS, you must be prepared to start on a training course at the first available opportunity within your employment and definitely within the first year, a good communicator able to negotiate and support personalised learning within a group learning environment, prepared to work flexibly according to the needs of the Service and the learner to ensure that the course is fully delivered and able to work at any venue within the Medway area as required

Medway Adult and Community Learning Service is committed to the National Skills for Life Strategy and operates a whole organisation approach to it. All staff are expected to have personal competence in English and Maths at Level 2. If you do not currently have evidence of achievement at this level, we will support successful appointees to undertake the Adult Literacy and Numeracy qualifications within the first year of working for us.

Medway Adult and Community Learning Service is committed to safeguarding and promotes the welfare of all learners and expects all staff to share this commitment.

Any offer of employment for this post will be subject to an enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure, satisfactory medical clearance and personal references.

For an application pack for any of the part-time tutor posts please contact Christine Osborne on 01634 338423 or email christine.osborne@medway.gov.uk

Closing date: 21 August 2009

Medway Adult and Community Learning Service

Head of Quality and Curriculum Ref:CA0723B

Salary: LNFA 19-23 (£37,239 - £41,414)

Location: Medway

We are looking to recruit an enthusiastic and dynamic individual to lead on quality improvement and curriculum development for MACLS. The post is an exciting and challenging one and will demand an excellent understanding of the role of adult and community learning in the Further Education system.

The post-holder will be responsible for ensuring that the curriculum is planned and developed to meet Service targets; lead effective quality improvement across the Service including the commissioning of staff development and oversee the arrangements for IAG and Matrix re-accreditation.

The successful candidate will be qualified to degree level or equivalent and hold a management qualification such as DMS together with substantial relevant management experience, up-to-date with developments in the further education environment and the quality standards required by LSC and Ofsted in adult and community learning, an excellent communicator, prepared to work flexibly according to the needs of the Service and able to work at any venue within the Medway area as required.

For an informal discussion, please contact Sue Hopkins on 01634 338442 or 338439 or email sue.hopkins@medway.gov.uk For an application pack or to apply visit www.medway.gov.uk or phone 01634 333333 Mon to Fri 8am-8pm, Sat 9am-1pm or 01634 332843 24-hour answer-phone. Alternatively email jobs@medway.gov.uk quoting the reference.

Closing date: 21 August 2009

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No. 1

CRICKET

BY DAVID PRITCHARD

Kent Cricket League Division Three

Wickham Park 1st XI v Upchurch 1st XI

UPCHURCH eased to a comfortable eight-wicket victory against Wickham Park on Saturday, but now share the lead of Division Three with Minster.

Dean Headley's side had looked like running away with the title earlier in the season, but they came into the game with a slender lead, mainly due to bad weather which had washed out four of their previous six fixtures.

Relegation-threatened Wickham Park were perhaps the ideal opponents, especially as they could only field nine players.

After being put into bat, Wickham Park laboured from the beginning. Both openers struggled to score and they were removed cheaply by Tim Mullis, while Marc Bond also struck twice early on to reduce the hosts to 45 for 4.

A brief fightback in the middle order was broken up by Michael Hales junior. The spinner took 4 for 21 in just under six overs to skittle Wickham Park for 98.

The total never looked like troubling the visitors and they eased home after just 19 overs. Andrew Shirley and Headley were both out for 14, but opener Jamie Parker guided Upchurch home with an unbeaten 47.

Yet despite winning, Upchurch now share top spot alongside Minster with four games remaining.

Upchurch feel the heat



CRUISE: Upchurch's bowling attack set up a straightforward victory to keep them top of Division Three

LOCAL CRICKET ROUND-UP

KENT CRICKET LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

Gore Court 1st XI v Bromley 1st XI

GORE Court slipped to the foot of the Premier Division following their five-wicket defeat to Bromley.

Court have not won all season batting first, but they posted a competitive total as their top order made runs. Karl Pearson (61) and Chris Piesley (83 not out) shared a stand of 144 as the hosts finished on 243 for 4.

Despite needing almost five runs an over, Bromley knocked off the runs with relative ease. Pearson took 2 for 46 but could not prevent another costly defeat.

Gore Court

		Runs
Richard Piesley	ct Shahid b Mees	32
Daniel Forster	ct Barbosa b Mees	33
Karl Pearson	ct Shahid b Dennington	61
Chris Piesley	not out	83
Kevin Jones	ct Mees b Shahid	8
Christian Marsh	not out	1
Michael Jones	did not bat	
Steve Marsh	did not bat	
Alex Campbell	did not bat	
Alex Edwards	did not bat	
Adam Collins	did not bat	
Extras	(2b 10lb 9w 4nb)	25
Total	(4 wickets, 50 overs)	243

Bowlers

		M	R	W
Matthew Dennington	0	0	46	1
Michael Bluett	3	0	30	0
Thomas Mees	7	1	26	2
Chris Harris	10	2	22	0
Nadeem Shahid	8	0	32	1
Grant Sheen	10	0	41	0
James Butterfill	5	0	34	0

Wickham Park

		Runs
Nadeem Shahid	ct R Piesley b Collins	7
James Butterfill	ct Pearson b Pearson	89
Miguel Barbosa	st Marsh b Edwards	28
Matthew Dennington	ct R Piesley b Jones	81
Paul Harrison	ct Campbell b Pearson	0
Chris Harris	not out	32
Nicholas Bluett	not out	0
Grant Sheen	did not bat	
Stephen Bailes	did not bat	
Thomas Mees	did not bat	
Michael Bluett	did not bat	
Extras	(5b 1lb 2w)	8
Total	(5 wickets, 47 overs)	245

Bowlers

		M	R	W
Kevin Jones	0	51	1	
Adam Collins	3	0	25	1
Chris Piesley	10	1	51	0
Alex Edwards	10	1	45	1
Karl Pearson	10	0	46	2
Richard Piesley	5	0	21	0

KENT LEAGUE DIVISION THREE

Gravesend RF 1st XI v Rainham 1st XI

CALLUM Mitchell starred with bat and ball as Rainham won a nail-biter against Gravesend by four runs.

The visitors made a mess of their innings, with only Mitchell (44) able to make a telling contribution. Significantly Rainham's total was topped up by 23 extras, which would prove to be decisive.

Mitchell then excelled with the ball, removing Gravesend's top three batsmen. Runs in the middle order made the hosts favourites, but Mitchell returned to finish his overs with figures of 6 for 17 as Gravesend finished just short of victory.

Rainham

		Runs
Andy Parkinson	ct Saeed b Wilde	5
David Sherod	ct& Russ Wilde	10
Matt Goodwin	run out	5
James Austin	ct Dee b Wilde	10
Callum Mitchell	ct Dee b Dee	44
James Sherod	b Saeed	1
Stuart Chipperfield	b Saeed	3
Phil Bellars	ct Singh b Saeed	7
Chris Small	b Singh Rana	14
Paul Newton	not out	15
Thomas Burns	b Singh Rana	0
Extras	(1lb 3lb 7w 2nb)	23
Total	(all out, 48.4 overs)	137

Bowlers

		M	R	W
Nigel Dee	0	4	27	1
Russ Wilde	13	6	25	3
S Saeed	8	2	18	3
Sukhpal Singh Rana	84	0	29	2
Sandeep Singh	4	0	22	0

Gravesend RF

		Runs
Richard Ashley	b Mitchell	8
S Saeed	ct Austin b Mitchell	11
Tich Chodha	b Mitchell	0
Unsure	ct Goodwin b Austin	10
Sandeep Singh	ct Burns b Burns	41
Nigel Dee	b Small	0
Sukhpal Singh Rana	ct Small b Mitchell	34
Mohammed Asif Malik	ct Chipperfield b Mitchell	5
Varinderjit Chodha	ct Goodwin b Mitchell	3
Russ Wilde	ct Mitchell b Sherod	4
Steve Waghorn	not out	2
Extras	(7b 3lb 1w)	11
Total	(all out, 39 overs)	133

Bowlers

		M	R	W
Callum Mitchell	0	6	17	6
James Sherod	10	4	21	1
Chris Small	6	1	18	1
James Austin	4	0	25	1
Thomas Burns	4	0	24	1
Paul Newton	3	0	18	0

KENT LEAGUE DIVISION FIVE

Macknade 1st XI v Offham 1st XI

AN UNBEATEN century on either side set up an entertaining game as Offham beat Macknade by four wickets on Saturday.

Steve Taylor hit 113 for the hosts, putting on 132 with Lee Rigden (66) for the third wicket to help Macknade to a competitive 266 for 6.

In most other games Taylor would have taken the plaudits, but his effort was trumped by Offham's Ben Gittings. His brilliant 165 not out came from just 150 balls to steer the visitors to victory with four balls to spare.

Macknade

		Runs
Phil Rowcroft	b Watt	2
Kaylen Short	ct T Gittings b Watt	27
Steve Taylor	not out	113
Lee Rigden	ct Goff b Brooker	66
Scott Davenport	run out (Goff)	2
Chris Smith	lbw b Brooker	2
Vince Taylor	ct Goff b Watt	30
Will Dear	not out	5
James Jarrett	did not bat	
Jamie Rigden	did not bat	
Darryl Cook	did not bat	
Extras	(10b 6lb 2w 1nb)	19
Total	(6 wickets, 50 overs)	266

Bowlers

		M	R	W
Leonard Watt	12	0	51	3
Andy Cox	14	1	69	0
Graham Razey	8	0	44	0
Phil Blakelock	3	0	31	0
Mervyn Brookner	13	1	55	2

Offham

		Runs
Graham Razey	b Dear	27
Lawrence Bell	b Short	17
Ben Gittings	not out	165
Tom Gittings	ct S Taylor b J Rigden	5
Leonard Watt	b Dear	10
Adam Kent	st S Taylor b Cook	31
Mervyn Brookner	ct V Taylor b Cook	0
Nathan Faulkes	not out	4
Phil Blakelock	did not bat	
Steve Waghorn	not out	
Extras	(5b 5lb)	10
Total	(6 wickets, 49.2 overs)	269

Bowlers

		M	R	W
Kaylen Short	8	3	16	1
James Jarrett	7	2	33	0
Will Dear	13	0	67	2
Jamie Rigden	10	0	56	1
Darryl Cook	11.2	0	87	2

SCOREBOARD

Wickham Park

	Runs
Neil Latteman	ct Headley b Mullis
James Reid	ct Taylor b Mullis
Clifford Hayward	ct Shirley b Bond
Oliver Willis	ct Shirley b Bond
Toby Amos	lbw b Hales jnr
Gary George	ct Parker b Hales jnr
Martin Crowther	ct Parker b Hales jnr
Adam Smith	ct Taylor b Hales jnr
Adam Teare	not out
Extras (2b 3lb 2w)	7
Total	(all out, 36.5 overs)
	98

Bowlers

	M	R	W
Marc Bond	13	4	39
Tim Mullis	15	5	27
Michael Hales jnr	5.5	1	21
Adam Hodder	3	0	0

Upchurch

	Runs
Jamie Parker	not out
Andrew Shirley	ct Crowther b Amos
Dean Headley	ct Hayward b Crowther
Lee Taylor</td	

Synchronicity for Faversham swimmers



WINNERS: Faversham's talented synchronised swimmers after their championship success

SYNCHRONISED SWIMMING

THE outdoor pool in Faversham was the venue for Faversham Swimming Club's annual synchronised swimming championships, with a healthy crowd pulled in by a combination of the warm weather and some high-class performances.

Sarah Filston took the under-11 beginners' section with 55 points, beating Georgia Collins, who managed 50.78, into second place after performing an Oyster, Tub and Back Tuck Somersault.

Nichola Root performed the same combination of moves to take the over-11 beginners' group section prize with 47.33 points.

The Juniors had to produce a more elaborate routine, with a front tuck somersault, back tuck somersault and bent knee alternate, with the first place awarded

to Kay Dixon-Smith, who managed 58.90 points.

Abi Collins' 55.95 points were enough for second spot while Nadine Davies took the final spot on the podium by a wafer thin margin. Her total of 53.61 points was just 0.04 clear of Nicole Collins who had to settle for fourth.

Chiara Marchini won the Intermediate group with 51.36 points after performing a Ballet Leg, Back Pike Somersault and Front Tuck Somersault.

Chloe Scamp was awarded first place in the Seniors group with 58.29 points with Georgia Harlow second on 56.38 points, their performances including a Somersub, Blossom, Walkover Front and Flamingo Position.

But the outstanding performance of the day came in the Solo section, which Chiara Marchini with a fantastic 83.01 points total.

The evening was concluded with a presentation ceremony hosted by the club's president, Sally Robertson.

FOOTBALL



ON TARGET: Dane Luchford netted Faversham's winner

Great Dane finish gets Town off to the perfect start

Beckenham Town 0

Faversham Town 1

THE Lilywhites made the best possible start to the new Kent League season, taking three points from Beckenham, thanks to an early goal from Dane Luchford.

New signings Dan Larkin, Dale Skelton and Aaron Quain all started and Jack Tanner, who joined last week from Whitstable, came on for the final half hour as the visitors gelled quickly.

The only goal came after eight minutes, when Dave Soutan headed the ball into Luchford's path and he beat Beckenham keeper Nick Blue.

The lead should have been doubled on the half hour when Damian Abel was hauled down by Danny Gorman, but Abel's penalty was comfortably saved by Blue, diving to his left.

The visitors nearly grabbed a second straight from the second-half kick-off. Luchford caught the home side dawdling, burst into the Beckenham half but squared to Abel, who shot wide instead of having a go himself.

Sub Craig Thompson had an eventful final 15 minutes, getting booked for dissent within moments of replacing Abel and then spurning a chance to kill Beckenham off, before he collected a second yellow in injury time for a poor challenge on Charlie McCarthy.

However, heroics from keeper Rob French, who had been a virtual spectator in the first half, and the calming presence of Lee Shearer, who replaced the limping Luchford with six minutes left, saw Faversham over the line.

The Lilywhites travel to Hartsdown Park to play a Margate XI on Saturday, before a derby at home to Norton on Tuesday night.

Bourne boss taking the positives from defeats

FOOTBALL

■ BY YOURSWALE REPORTER

Canvey Island 2 Sittingbourne 1

A MAD opening seven minutes cost Sittingbourne a chance of victory and marred an otherwise impressive performance against Ryman Premier Division side Canvey Island on Saturday.

After just 90 seconds Canvey's James Rowe finished off a move he had instigated, slipping the opening goal past Deren Ibrahim.

The Essex side quickly added a second when Rowe crossed from the byline and Leon Gordon bundled the ball over the line.

Yet within two minutes the visitors pulled one back. Joe Horlock found Hicham Akhazzan unmarked in the area and he curled a superb shot past Canvey keeper James Russell.

Elie Kayembe was particularly impressive up front and five minutes after the interval he was brought down in the area by Gordon, only for Bradley Spice to have the resulting penalty saved by Russell.

On the hour, Ibrahim made a sharp save to thwart Jay Curran, but the Brickies' best chance of an equaliser was spurned when Matt Bourne failed to find the target after a free-kick from Spice in injury time.

"We got off to the worst start possible," manager Gary Abbott admitted. "But once we'd settled down we played some great football and should have equalised before half-time. If Bradley had scored the penalty we'd probably have gone on to win the game."

"Our last three games have all been against Premier Division sides, which is what I wanted. We might have lost to all three of them, but apart from the last 45 minutes against Tonbridge, when I played loads of trallists who obviously weren't good enough, we played really well."



ENCOURAGING: Sittingbourne finished their preparations for the new season with a spirited performance in defeat against Canvey Island

Sittingbourne begin their Division 1 South campaign at home to Whyteleafe on Saturday, with Femi Omogbehin the only slight injury concern.

To date 17 players have signed on for the Brickies, with Abbott particularly pleased to have recaptured Kayembe from Aveley.

Further additions before Saturday are unlikely and the only question mark concerns Rio Alderton.

"I don't know what's going on with him to be honest," Abbott said. "But I'm really happy with the squad I've got and am targeting six points from our first two games."

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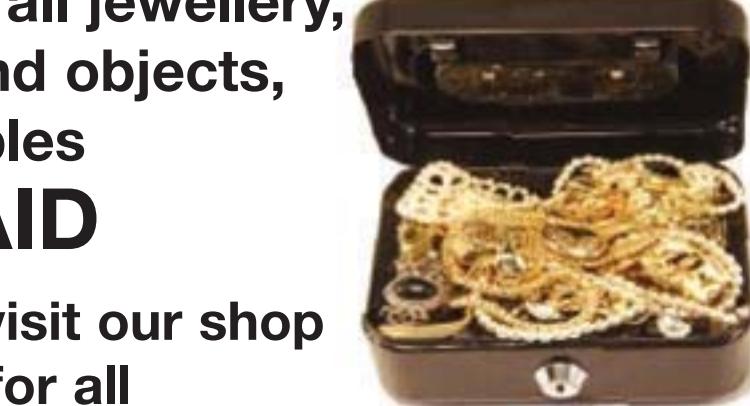
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